MARCH 2025 VOLUME 22 ISSUE 3

THE LOGGER'S BARK

a magazine

Radio Club of Tacoma

New! Kenwood TM-D750A Ultimate Tribander! P. 65

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

W7DK

SERVING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1916

WWW.W7DK.ORG

In this issue:

W7DK at Mike & Key Hamfest—March 2024

Right to left:

Doug Schafer AB7DG
Red Cranefield WB7EC
Adam Barbera W2NCC
Paul Nosal N7OSS
Deanna Jenks KA7DXC
Anne Ellison N7ANN

W7DK 2024 Officers and Committee Leaders

Executive Committee:

President:	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Vice President:	Manny Adonis AD7MA
Secretary:	Gary McAdams WG7X
Treasurer:	(Acting) Doug Schafer AB7DG

Board of Directors:

Board:	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Board:	Paul Matney W7PFU
Board:	Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board:	Dan Vacanti KD7SV
Board:	Dave Ashley W7GEL

Key Committee Chairpersons:

Membership:	George K7GRS/Mike W7XH
Salmon Run:	George K7GRS/Mike W7XH
Infotech/IT:	Randy WB4SPB
HF Operations:	Phil K7PIA
Facilities:	Adam W2NCC
Property Mgmt.	Red WB7EC
Museum:	Dan KD7SV
Planning:	Manny AD7MA
POTA:	BJ KO7T
General Meeting:	Dave W7UUU
Bark layout & Editor:	Dave W7UUU
Assistant/Copy Editor:	Anne N7ANN

Contents

QUICK LINKS TO THE BIG STUFF!

xx=nothing submitted

But don't stop there! Each issue is 50 or more pages of fun and cool stuff to explore! Scroll on!

Have a submission for our next issue?

loggersbark@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Monthly ruminations from our President

Adam Barbera W2NCC

THE FUTURE OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Technology is shaping how we connect and communicate and this is shaping the future of ham radio membership. The core of amateur radio is still about getting on the air with a radio, experimentation, and public service; however the ways we engage are evolving. The good news is that these changes are opportunities for clubs to expand their reach to attract new members beyond the traditional geographic distance.

Today people have many ways to stay connected. Social media, video conferencing, and instant messaging have become part of our daily lives. For ham radio clubs, this means we have an opportunity to leverage these technologies to enhance our membership experience and reach a broader audience.

Clubs have already moved from mailing printed newsletters to sending them electronically. We can make additional adjustments by switching to collaboration and presentation tools, such as Zoom and Microsoft Teams, to hold meetings, training sessions, and events in hybrid or fully online format.

Hybrid meetings where members can attend in person or virtually, offer new options for member participation. They enable members who live longer distances away or have mobility issues to take part in club meetings and activities more easily. These tools have features like breakout rooms, which allow participants to have smaller, focused discussions and then join back to the main group.

Technology is making physical distance less of a barrier for people to have interactions.

Clubs should be focusing more on activities offered and less on geographical distance to attract members. Clubs can attract and engage members from across the state or even across the country. As an example, its common nowadays to invite an expert speaker from across the country and there is no travel for the speaker or club members.

With technology, clubs can attract members who may not live nearby but share passion for the activities the club is offering. Technology makes it easier for members to participate, regardless of their location. Clubs that want to grow their membership should think about offering various programs and interactive experiences that appeal to a wide range of interests.

Technology, is not a replacement for personal connections, it complements and enhances what we already do well. We should continue to embrace innovation and use the available tools to grow our clubs.

Adam W2NCC President

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X

MARCH 2025, SPRING IS HERE?

March is usually the month that transitions us into the summer doldrums, but there will still be a lot of DX to be worked. The DX "season" is normally from October to March because the nights are long, and the absorption is also low. We've had a good DX season this time, with lots of DX and activity on all the usual HF bands.

10 and 12 meters have been very good, and winter is the time to work those bands. During the summer, they tend to fade out and 15m and 20m will become busier.

Speaking of summer, let's not forget field day in June! This is always an RCT favorite activity. And it's never too late to begin planning for that!

But back to March: There are a couple of DX contests that the HF committee is interested in operating: The ARRL DX contest from March 1st thru the 2nd and then the CQ WPX (World Prefix) contest on the 29th and 30th of March. These are two very different contests, even though they both use SSB.

The ARRL DX contest is like the title indicates, a contest where the rest of the world looks for North American stations. This one is an easy way to rack up some DX, and even the proverbial "Peanut Whistle" stations can make a *lot* of contacts. DX, in this contest, is everyone except the USA and Canada. Arbitrary, yes, but we don't make up the rules, the ARRL does.

Next on the menu is the CQ WPX contest, on the 29th and 30th of March. This one requires a bit of explanation: CQ magazine, when it still existed, sponsored an award for working stations with different callsign prefixes. A prefix is the first part of a ham radio callsign. For example, RCT's call sign is W7DK. So, the prefix is W7 and that counts as one point. Our museum callsign is W7OS and that one is also one point. Where it gets interesting is when you have worked a lot of common prefixes like the W1 thru W0 or the other common prefixes. Now folks really begin looking for callsigns that are not so common, like the secretaries callsign: WG7X. Only a few WG7 stations are around so that makes more folks look for WG7 as opposed to just a W7 prefix.

But, since all prefixes count, that means everybody works everybody else and that's where the fun is: we all count as a point and a multiplier. All you folks with the KK7 calls are a good multiplier too. This contest really levels the playing field!

I have asked the HF committee to let us work this contest using my callsign WG7X to get more folks calling us. They have given us permission to use my wacky call sign that weekend just to see how many we can rack up in 48 hours. I am putting out an open invitation for people who want to try their luck at this. Only one request: since I'll be trying to beat my own score of 1,313,154 points, that my team accomplished way back In 2005, I'd like to request operators who can work the callers and log at the same time.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

W7DK Secretary—Gary WG7X

Folks with a bit of prior contest experience will be a plus, but if you want to try and haven't done contesting before, you're invited as well; just remember that we are going to try to put out a "Big Signal" and that usually means that the activity will get very busy! So, if you're ready for a challenge sign up!

Gary WG7X's "Multi-Single" Team First Place CQ WPX certificate from the 2005 contest

Send your requests to: **Secretary at W7DK dot org**.

When we did it in 2005, there were nine operators and a single radio. This time, I'd like to shoot for about the same number or more operators and two radios. So we'll have to see how that all goes!

Last bit of March madness: don't forget the annual Mike & Key swap meet on the weekend of March 8th, 2025. Setup begins on Friday the 7th from 1400 to 1900 and is again on Saturday 0530 through 0830. Customers begin coming in at 0900.

Radio Club of Tacoma will have the usual tables, probably on the first floor where we have been many times in the past. Access to the building is totally ADA compliant.

I will hope to see you there—and hopefully you'll stop by the W7DK table and take home some cool old radios that you just can't live without!

73 for now -*Gary WG7X, RCT Secretary*

GREETINGS ALL FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK. There are a number of what I think are *really fun* articles in *The Bark* this month. One of the most interesting is the "unsolved mystery" regarding the disappearance of local Tacoma grocery store owner and successful businessman, Art Wing, W7JGN (RCT member #298, joined in 1950). He was a private pilot who took off one day in his Cessna 150 from an airport in Mexico and was never seen again. It took some digging, but I was able to come up with the *original Telex bulletin* documenting this long-ago disappearance. Really fascinating stuff—a sad loss of course but a big mystery!

And of course, as most readers I'm sure have figured out, I like to showcase interesting people, places and things from Amateur Radio's past. Preserving and sharing our collective history I believe is an important facet of the hobby, regardless of your age or how recently you jointed the ranks— and one I strive to cover in every issue. Our past *reinforces* our future.

One such article concerns one of the truly notable names from early ham radio history, Winne Dow, 7FG (her call before WWI and the cancellation of ham licenses, then 7CB after the war ended and she could get a license again). At age 14 as 7FG, Winnie became the *first female amateur radio operator* in the entire 7th call district (which at that time included Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana). It's always been a point of pride locally that Winnie was not only from Tacoma, but also a very early member of the Radio Club of Tacoma (member #40).

And of course, last month saw the Winter Field Day event become active nationwide, and the club participated in style this year. The results are in—along with a few photos of the W7DK "Mighty DK" working the event as a 1i station. The club did a great job this year, pulling in a fair number of operators (some for the very first time in an event like this), to achieve a very decent score. Check that article out in this issue!

Another fun article concerns a really funky old Novice rig from 1954 made by a company called Western Radio Supply in Kearney, Nebraska—the BN-1 Novice transmitter—receiver. What a goofy little radio this was indeed! If you are a new ham in this modern era, you need to see just what the "Baofeng UV-5R" equivalent was nearly 75 years ago… the Baofeng or any number of other low-end Chinese rigs of all flavors today would run circles around the BN-1. We've come a LONG WAY!

Another fun piece, despite the long-ago abandonment of Morse as a requirement for amateur radio licensing, the numbers of CW operators continues to *grow* year after year—believe it or not! And the Straight Key Century Club—SKCC—is at the forefront of that growth. There's a full article in this month's *Bark* telling readers all about this fun group and what they are all about. Curious about CW? Check it out!

Lastly, as an employee of QRZ.com, I regularly get support ticket requests, emails, and forums posts about the QRZ "search function"… no, *it's not like Google!* But it's not inept either—it's just *different*—using Boolean Logic as its core algorithm. The QRZ forums run on XenForo Forums software, and that's the search system they use. So this month, there's a full tutorial on how the Boolean search function works and how you can make the most of it. Please—check it out!

I hope folks find some fun, entertainment, and new knowledge from reading an article or two each month in The Bark—and if you liked what you read, please send us an email and share what you found interesting.

-Dave W7UUU

HAM RADIO WORLD NEWS

Amateur radio events from around the world

Web

RigExpert's Administrative Office Destroyed in Russian Missile Attack — Production Remains Intact

02/14/2025

On February 12, 2025, RigExpert's administrative office, in Kyiv, Ukraine, was destroyed by a Russian ballistic missile. All employees are reported to be safe.

RigExpert is a leading manufacturer of antenna and cable analyzers and officials said they are committed to restoring operations as soon as possible.

"Our top priority is the safety of our team and the continuity of our operations," said Ashot Andeev, Chief Executive Officer. "While our administrative office is in ruins, our production facilities survived, allowing us to continue serving our customers and partners."

The company is working to minimize delays and fulfill its commitments while maintaining customer support operations.

Photo: RigExpert.com website

Text © ARRL, Inc.

Grant will Help Young Amateur Radio Operators Become Contesters

02/14/2025

A $10,000 grant to the University of Scranton, from the Frankford Radio Club (FRC) in Pennsylvania, will support the development of a contest dashboard that will leverage the popularity of amateur radio operator contests to benefit science, technology, students and Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) community members.

Through the grant, a team of university students, faculty, and FRC members, along HamSCI community members, will collaborate to develop a real-time Contesting/DXing Dashboard for the HamSCI Personal Space Weather Station (PSWS). The PSWS is a modular, ground-based system that measures space weather impacts on the Earth's ionosphere.

The grant will fund Scranton University student researcher, Owen Ruzanski, KD3ALD, a first-year computer engineering major, for the summer and fall 2025 semesters to help develop the contest dashboard and is expected to conclude in the spring semester of 2026.

University of Scranton physics professor Nathaniel Frissell, Ph.D, W2NAF, said through the project, he hopes the University's W3USR Amateur Radio Club members, present and future, will become active radio contesters.

"We are already of ahead of schedule for this project," said Dr. Frissell. "This past weekend we hosted students from W3USR and the Frankford Radio Club to take part in a little contesting. We made over 400 QSO's worth over 250,000 contest points."

Ray Sokola, K9RS, past president the Frankford Radio Club, said that amateur radio contesters are one of the most enthusiastic subset of ham radio operators, and participants span a range of ages from teenagers to over 90.

Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act Re-Introduced

Legislation Will Increase Communication Options During Natural Disasters

02/07/2025

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Richard Blumenthal, D- Conn., and Representatives August Pfluger, R-Tex., and Joe Courtney, D-Conn. announced their joint re-introduction of legislation in the Senate and House to restore the right to Amateur Radio operators to install the antennas necessary to serve their communities.

Homeowner association rules often prevent Amateur Radio operators from installing antennas at their homes even though Amateur Radio has proven to be essential in emergencies and natural disasters such as hurricanes when other means of communication fail.

"Mississippians should have access to every possible means of warning for natural disasters, including amateur radio operators. In an emergency, those warnings can mean the difference between life and death," Senator Wicker said. "The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act would remove unnecessary roadblocks that could help keep communities safe during emergencies like tornadoes, hurricanes, and fires."

"When disaster strikes, amateur radio operators provide vital, often life-saving information, which shouldn't be hindered by prohibitive rules or confusing approval processes. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act eliminates obstacles for ham radio enthusiasts, allowing them to continue their communications and serve their communities in the face of emergencies," said Senator Blumenthal.

"Natural disasters and other emergency situations that hinder our regular lines of communication are unfortunately unavoidable, which is why we must bolster our emergency preparedness by removing the barriers amateur radio operators often run into when installing antennas. Amateur radio plays a vital role in public safety by delivering critical information to people at all times. My district is home to dozens of amateur radio operators ready to volunteer in the event of an emergency, and I am proud to lead this legislation," said Congressman August Pfluger.

"As we know from recent natural disasters, amateur radio operators in Connecticut can be a critical component of disaster response and emergency management. It is in our communities' best interest that we give them the capabilities to operate at the highest level, and with the re-introduction of this bill, we've taken a strong step in that direction," said Congressman Courtney.

Background:

The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 (H.R. 1094 and S. 459) would require homeowner associations to accommodate the needs of FCC-licensed Amateur Radio operators by prohibiting the enforcement of private land use restrictions that ban, prevent, or require the approval of the installation or use of Amateur Radio station antennas. Homeowner associations have often prevented installation and use of such antennas through private land use restrictions. This has hindered voluntary training for emergency situations and blocked access to necessary communications when disaster strikes.

Among other provisions, this legislation would:

- Prohibit homeowner association rules that would prevent or ban Amateur Radio antennas;
- Specify an approval process for installing Amateur Radio antennas;
- Provide a Federal private right of action to Amateur Radio operators in disputed cases.

On behalf of America's Amateur Radio licensees, Rick Roderick, the President of The American Radio Relay League, re-confirmed the ARRL's full support for the passage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act of 2025 and extended his thanks and appreciation to Senators Wicker and Blumenthal and Congressmen Pfluger and Courtney for their unflagging leadership of the bi-partisan effort to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

The text of the House version can be found at this link: H.R. 1094

2025 ARRL TECHNICAL SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Technical Service Award is given annually to a licensed radio amateur or to individuals who are licensed radio amateurs whose service to the amateur community and/or society at large is of the most exemplary nature within the framework of Amateur Radio technical activities, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Participation or leadership in technically-oriented organizational affairs at the local or national level;
- Service as official ARRL volunteer; i.e., Technical Advisor, Technical Coordinator, Technical Specialist.
- Sharing of technical education and achievements with others through articles in the Amateur Radio literature, and at club meetings, hamfests and conventions; and encourage others to do the same.
- Promotion of technical advances and experimentation at vhf/uhf and with specialized modes, and work with enthusiasts in these fields.
- Service as technical advisor to clubs that sponsor classes for obtaining amateur licenses or upgraded licenses.
- In times of emergency or disaster, provide technical expertise to Amateur Radio service providers, government and relief agencies to assist with the establishment of emergency communications networks.
- Referral of amateurs in the section who need specialized technical advice to appropriate sources.
- Work with local clubs to develop RFI/TVI committees in the section for the purpose of rendering technical assistance as needed.
- Assistance to local technical program committees in arranging suitable programs for ARRL hamfests and conventions.

Formal nominations may be made by any ARRL member. All nominees will be invited to confirm their interest in competing for the award and to submit material documenting their activities. The person or group making the nomination will also be invited to submit additional information supporting the nomination.

The ARRL's Technology Task Force will serve as the award panel and will review the nominations received from the members and select the winner. An appropriate plaque will be presented to the recipient(s) at a home convention or event within the USA or the ARRL National Convention, or a mutually agreed upon arrangement to be made by F&ES to recipients outside the USA. The recipient(s) may also request ARRL publications of a value up to $100.

The ARRL Technical Service Award is intended to provide encouragement, and a tangible reward, for amateurs who are outstanding in the field of technical service. It also provides an opportunity for Amateur Radio, and its many benefits for society, to be brought to the attention of the public. Nominations must be received at Headquarters by March 31. Additional support information must be received at ARRL Headquarters by April 15.

THE MAILBAG

LETTERS To The Editor

W7UUU

KA1PPV "High Voltage" QRP shack!

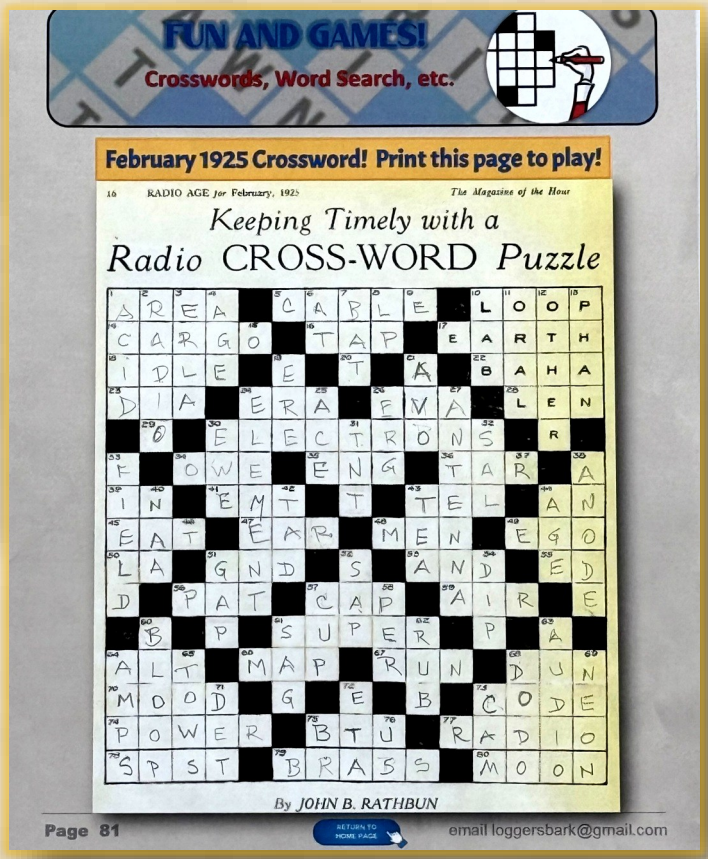
Dear Editor,

Here is your pic—I have always been a bit camera shy so I decided to let my station and your stickers take center stage. I thought that it would be quite a joke to put a "High Voltage" sign on a QRP station where the top voltage is 13.5 VDC and the power level is between 1.5 and 3.5 watts! All the equipment that you see was home-built except for the Uniden scanner and the black box serial switcher

-Joe KA1PPV

***Dear Joe**—Well it looks great! We really appreciate you participating in the Word Game page, and taking the time to send in a photo once you got the stickers. Very cool—and kudos on the awesome and tidy homebrew station!*

-Dave W7UUU, Editor



THIS was a very unexpected surprise! Greg WB2CLL (featured in last month's Bark as the QSL of the Month) emailed back a few days ago regarding that blurb in the issue and said, in part, "**I can't go past a word puzzle and not take up the challenge**" and he included his *perfectly* completed 1925 "Radio Age" magazine reprint of their original hand-drawn cross-word puzzle from that issue!

I was blown away—I immediately put a nice selection of W7DK stickers, as well as QRZ and a few other stickers in an envelope to send to him as his prize. (Pix soon!)
I must surely think the author of the puzzle, engineer and technical artist John B. Rathbun* from 1925 would be *truly impressed* by all of this after all these one hundred years!
Thanks Greg!

*-Dave W7UUU (*look for a piece on Rathbun in the April edition of The Logger's Bark! He was a truly great engineer)*

Dear Editor ,

Your impending retirement at the end of 2025 as Editor of the *Logger's Bark* is a happy-sad moment… at least for me. But you will have certainly earned it!

Anyone who pays any attention at all to the graphic lay-out, content, and textual detail of the magazine has to be in awe. I'd be hard-put to identify a rival club publication that even approaches the quality, the entertainment, the education, and the readability of the monthly *Logger's Bark*. You will be missed but of course you have my permission.

Best 73,

-Fred K8IG
Mayfield Village, OH

***Dear Fred**—Thanks so much for the kind words. I still have many more issues coming but yes, come the December issue I will be passing the baton to a new Editor, and I'm sure a new vision for The Logger's Bark that will be just as entertaining and informative. And thanks for having joined as our first "out of state" member as a result of reading The Logger's Bark*—73—Dave

From QRZ:

Great magazine! Thanks for making this every month. It's nice to see all the different topics y'all put in there—it's much better than QST in my opinion.

-Gilbert age 16, KQ4GUI
Fort Myers, Florida

***Dear Gavin**—thanks for the kind words—Dave*

Dear Editor ,

Thank you for your very succinct explanation why Mr. Dee Star cannot claim awards for using his version of the hobby [*D-Star radio over IP is not valid for DX awards—from The January Bark, Dear Elmer column*].

As you point out in your reply to Mr. Star, digital modes [over the internet such as D-Star] do indeed have their uses within the hobby but not to claim DX awards.

Great read every month—thanks for making it available via QRZ to anybody that wants to read it. As my chance of working any of your club members from Scotland is Ø minus 1Ø, it's great to hear about other people's involvement in the hobby.

-Howard Grundey, GM7ESM
Knock, Aberdeenshire
Scotland

***Dear Howard**—Thanks for taking the time to write, and for the kind words. Due to space considerations, the sections of your reply lumping FT8 in with D-Star as not counting for awards misses the point being made, however. That point being: D-Star, Fusion, DMR, etc. are all modes that usually require the internet to make the contact. They are not "RF to RF" contacts…. They are RF to Internet, then Internet back to RF so do not count as radio. FT8 however, by the standards set by LoTW, QRZ, and most other awards programs in the ham radio world, DO count for awards.* ***FT8 is RF from one end of the QSO to the other**. That's the same as SSTV, RTTY, PSK31, Hell Schriber etc.—all of which use RF for the entire QSO and thus aptly count for most awards.*

-Dave W7UUU

Dear Editor,

I really enjoy reading *The Logger's Bark*—keep up the great work on that newsletter!!!!!!!

-Tom "Parky" Parkinson, KB8UUZ
Technical Writer
DX Engineering—Tallmadge, Ohio

***Dear Parky**—thanks so much for the kind words. And the feeling is mutual—DXE is my go-to source for ham gear so you also keep up the great work! -Dave*

From QRZ,

Hello, and once again thank you, dear Sir, for this excellent review.. Very interesting article on the Lighthouses—especially since on the radio in my region I am nicknamed "The Semaphore of Ballan-Miré" and that my APRS logo (JN07HI) is a lighthouse.

Best regards,

-Pascal F4LPH
Ballan-Miré, France
[Translated from the original French]

***Merci Pascal**—thanks for the message all the way from France. It warms my heart to know this magazine is now read all the way around the world! It's wonderful how aspects of this great hobby can join us across continents, join our interests in amateur radio, and bridge gaps across languages. -Dave W7UUU*

From QRZ,

Loved the article on lighthouses. Our club, Great South Bay Amateur Radio Club, operates from the Fire Island Lighthouse yearly on ILLW (International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend). It is one of our most popular events. It is also an historical site, a POTA site, and I believe is a WWFF site as well.

Again, great article.

-Steve, KD2X
Deer Park, NY

***Dear Steve**—I'm really glad you enjoyed the lighthouse article as well! I learned so much in my weeks-long research for that piece. It was a rather convoluted adventure—I had no idea there were three organizations with Lighthouse ham radio programs, with none of them overlapping, and none of them like POTA or SOTA. Really fun learning stuff when I write for The Bark—Dave*

From QRZ,

This is always a great publication and a very valuable asset to everyone in ham radio. Thank you, Dave, for publishing it here for all of us on QRZ to enjoy.

-Ted, KD9TED
Ossian, Indiana

***Dear Ted**—Thanks for taking the time to write, Ted! I really appreciate that. -Dave W7UUU*

W7DK LOGGER'S CERTIFICATE

Classic "first award" for Members

HAVE YOU APPLIED for your own W7DK Logger's Certificate?! It's FREE and it's EASY! All you have to do is work at least 10 members of the Radio Club of Tacoma, then send in your list of call signs worked, and BAM! We'll print out your certificate and get it to you toot sweet by US Mail.

There are no confirmations required, no logs to submit, and really no rules other than the call signs you submit must be members of the club. You may work them on HF, 2m FM, on FT8 or SSB or any other mode! In fact, one of the best ways to get your 10 contacts is to check into the weekly Tuesday Night Net on the 147.28 club repeater… every Tuesday at 7:30 PM.

This venerable award was first launched in 1957, using certificate paper printed by club member Dick Ryan, W7RGD using a donated printing setup.

As of the date of this publication, there have been almost 700 certificates issued, including a few reissues over the years to replace lost certificates.

The original certificates were hand-lettered by long-time RCT member Barbara Osborne, W7UYL (SK 2022), and all of the records were kept in a series of recipe boxes still held by the club.

We still have a huge stash of this beautiful OFFICIAL logger's Certificate paper…. So if you do not already have yours, just shoot us an email with your list of call signs worked, and put "Logger's Certificate" in the subject line… ■ *-editor*

Wanna get yours? Send in those contacts!

Barbara Osborne W7UYL in 1955 an RCT USO event

Howard, WZ4K proudly displays his W7DK Loggers Cert!

"Got my coveted Certificate, Thank you! Already displayed on my QRZ page with a link to your club page and the BARKives! (BARKives, LOL/GROAN!). Ha! I can't believe I missed 1st-outta-state by 1"

-Well hey, you're the first in Virginia and the EST time zone! So that ain't bad at all, Howard! *-Dave W7UUU*

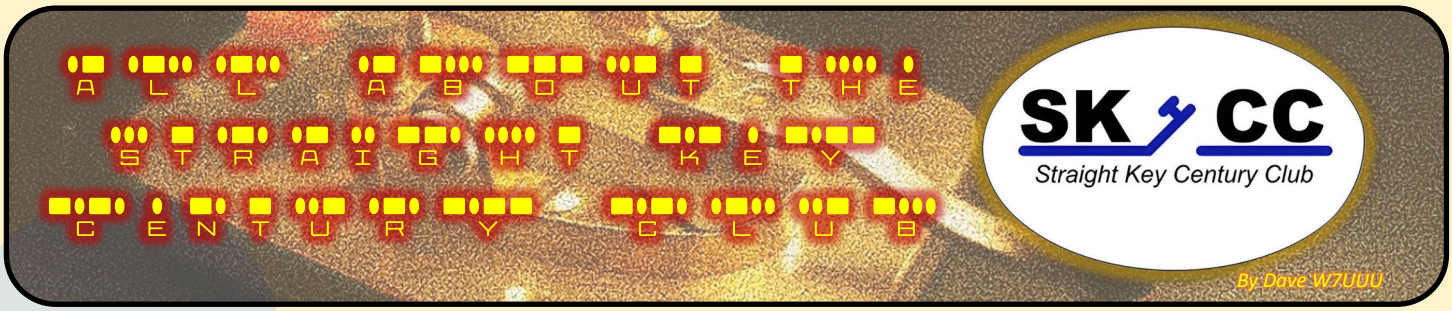
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By: W7UUU

Stephen AD7AB

Stephen Morton AD7AB is truly one of the anchors of the Radio Club of Tacoma and has been for years! He is the club's Education Coordinator (which over the years has spanned more than a couple committee positions). He is also the club's IRLP Tech and part of the IT committee. In fact, he can often be found in the Lou Room of the clubhouse with his laptop helping members and visitors alike to learn how to program their radios. As a reward for *years of service* to the club he was awarded the Doc Spike award in 2010. You can find Stephen just about any Saturday at the Clubhouse, always with a smile and sincere welcome for most anyone who stops by. And if you search "Dave's Radio Shack" on YouTube, Stephen was the subject of one of the Radio Club of Tacoma Living Histories videos (Here's the LINK) if you want to learn more about him.

Thanks, Stephen, for all you have done and continue to do for the Radio Club of Tacoma.



ARE YOU A NEW CW OPERATOR? OR MAYBE A longtime CW op returning to the fold? Perhaps you're like me—a CW ham from the very beginning of your hamming days (1974 for me). If any of these sound like you, and you have not yet heard of the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC)—a group born directly from the ARRL's Straight Key Night (SKN) - then this article is for *you.*

SKN started more than 50 years ago and was an instant success for many amateurs. It's always held on New Year's Eve and Day (based on the UTC date), and was intended as an opportunity for all hams to give their Morse skills at least one workout during the year. Since all hams then had to have Morse skills to get a license, the event had many participants right from the beginning. I personally have fond memories of New Years Eves of the past firing up a small homebrew "Novice era" transmitter paired with any number of vintage receivers on a cold New Years, working all comers in the event for either a long, slow ragchew or a quick exchange. But it was only one day of the year and many hams expressed an interest in having such an event happen more often.

This is the post that started it all! New Years Day 2006. Click the image to visit the full discussion in the QRZ Archives.

So on New Years Day 2006, entirely on a whim, Tom KC9ECI, in the middle of a QRZ Forums thread discussing SKN, created the SKCC and assigned himself member number 001! If you click on the image above, it will take you to that very post that started it all and you can read the entire long and interesting thread.

Within days the nascent club had over 100 members, and as of this writing (February 3), is at 29,595 and growing every day (my own number is 10168). Best of all, SKCC is *free* (many members however use the "Donate" button to help contribute to the overhead of running the website). It's open to *all* amateur radio operators—even those who are just starting out on CW and don't know the code yet.

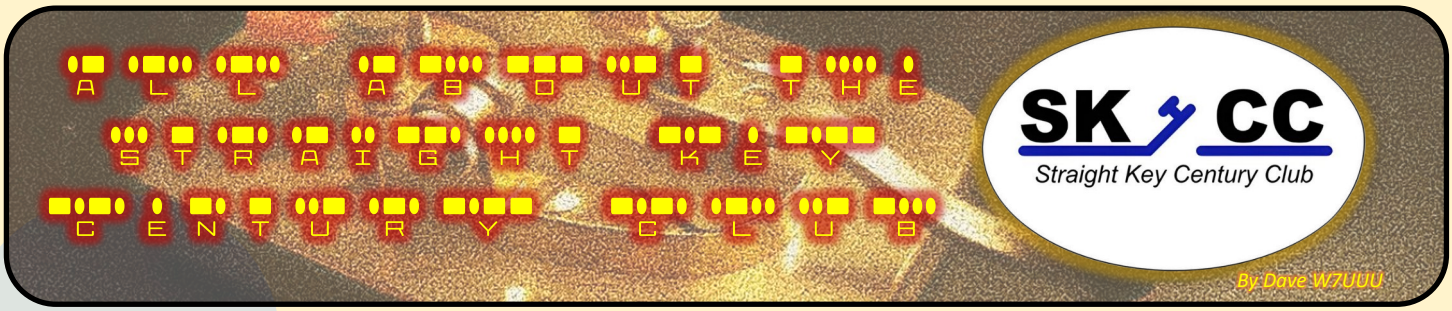
What follows is an overview of SKCC and what it's all about. There's quite a lot to know, so I encourage all to take some time to study the many links and informative posts found on the SKCC website.

So let's start with the basics of membership.

As mentioned, it's free to join and open to all licensed amateurs (CW competency is not required but obviously is what the whole thing is about).

Membership in SKCC is tiered in an interesting way. When you join, you will be assigned a member number ("NR" when referenced in an SKCC CW QSO). It's sequential, so you can get a rough idea how long someone you run into has been a member by their number.

As you start your journey with SKCC, the goal is to work other SKCC members and build your Morse skills, as well as work towards advancing your membership to move from being a "letterless" member to the higher levels of membership where a letter is affixed to your membership number.



Here's how that works. There are three lettered tiers as described below. I've summarized the requirements but it's best to "right click > new tab" each of the tier titles to visit the SKCC website to read full details:

- **Centurion** (**C**): Work 100 unique SKCC members, exchanging names and SKCC numbers. This first 100 can be letterless members or those with any of the C, T, or S letters. QSOs must be with SKCC members at the time of the QSO.
- **Tribune** (**T**): After earning your Centurion, you work 50 additional unique SKCC members who have attained Centurion or higher (letterless members don't count for advancing).
- **Senator** (**S**): This is the top tier and is tough! You must achieve "Tribune x8" status and make QSOs with 200 unique SKCC members. What does "x8" status mean? Tribune x8 means Tribune award 8 times over. Since each step of the Tribune award is based on 50 contacts, that means Tribune x8 requires a total of 400 valid contacts (with T and S members only). Best to read the full rules HERE. It's complicated!
- All contacts must be made using a straight key, bug, or sideswiper (cootie) key unless the member is granted a waiver for electronic keying (very strict rules on THIS)

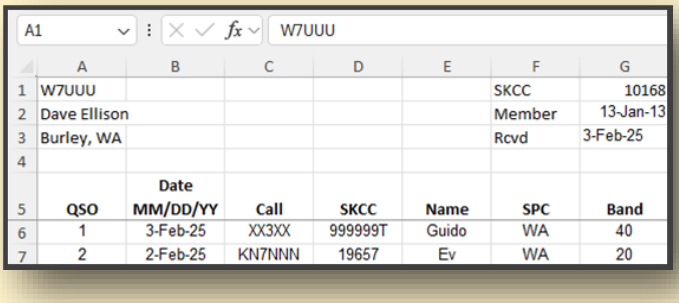
On the air, you will quickly know what level the other station is by the letter (or lack thereof) appended to their SKCC Number (NR). For example, if you work XX3XX and he comes back with "NR 999999T" you will know he is a Tribune level member (far in the future!).

SKCC QSO Logging is going to be important for tracking your progress of working SKCC members for your advancement from letterless to **C**, then **T**, then **S** status.

Why is this? Because to apply for Centurion etc. you are going to need to complete an application form that calls for the call sign of the operator as well as his SKCC number. And while you're working the contact, you will likely want to know if you've worked him before (he's wondering "will he count for leveling up?").

This is where there's a little bit of a "technological collision" in the mind of some participants. Many users (myself included) like to run cool old nostalgic rigs when running SKCC contacts, and in keeping with that, prefer to only log on paper. But if that's what you do, at some point, you will really need to enter all those contacts into a form to send to SKCC in electronic format (there is a vague mention in the rules about paper submissions, but it involves "discussing alternatives").

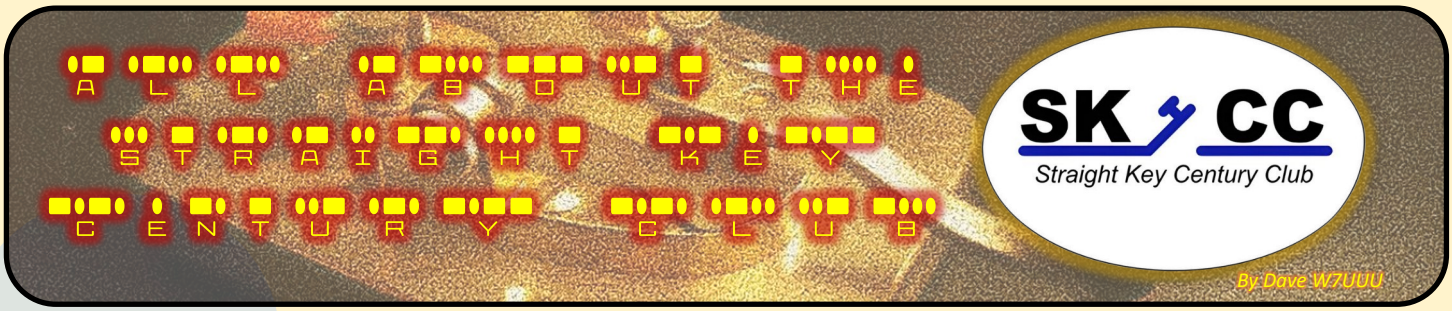
One way to do this is a simple template you can download to most any spreadsheet or word processing program and transfer your data over:



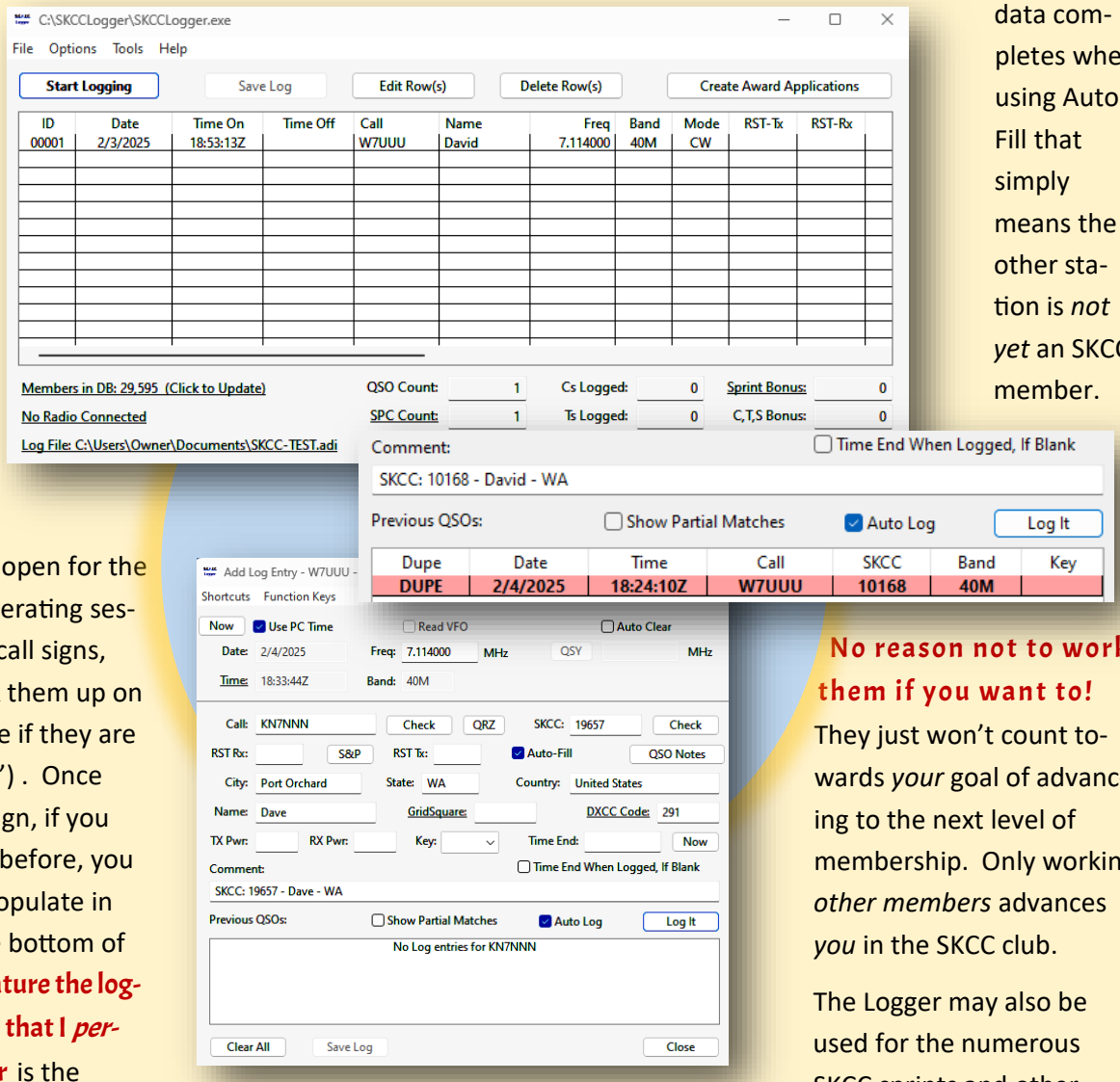
A1 | W7UUU

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	W7UUU					SKCC	10168
2	Dave Ellison					Member	13-Jan-13
3	Burley, WA					Rcvd	3-Feb-25
4							
5	QSO	Date MM/DD/YY	Call	SKCC	Name	SPC	Band
6	1	3-Feb-25	XX3XX	999999T	Guido	WA	40
7	2	2-Feb-25	KN7NNN	19657	Ev	WA	20

Click [HERE] for the spreadsheet version or [HERE] for the word processor version. You can use Microsoft Excel or Word or the free Open Office suite which you can download [HERE].



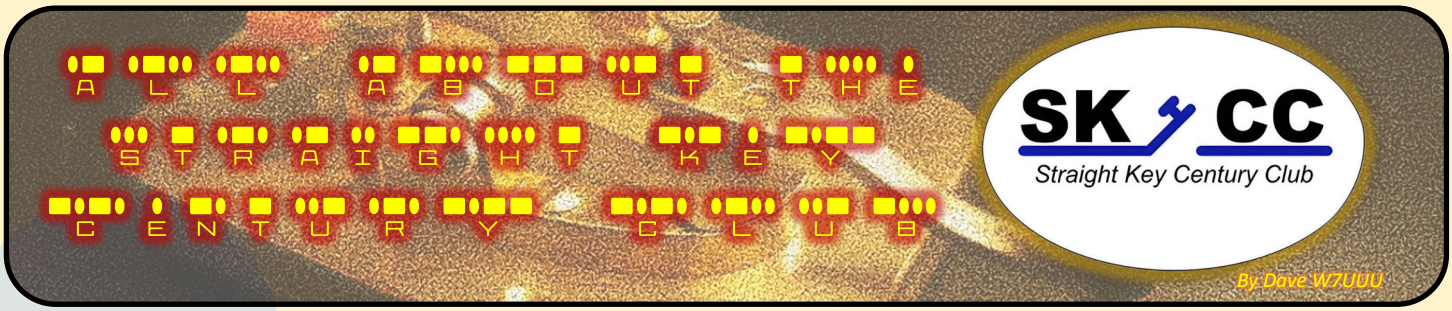
But if you don't object to using a computer to log, there's an easier way! The SKCC Logger program was made by Ron Bower AC2C, who is the club's Centurion and Tribune Award Administrator (as well as an SKCC Hall of Fame member and on the SKCC Honor Roll). The Logger is a brilliant little app that's free (Download [INFO LINK]) and totally streamlines the logging process. **Just like contesting software, it runs in real time as you work SKCC stations**. Once you click "Start Logging" the dialog in the lower image opens and remains open for the duration of your operating session. As you enter call signs, the Logger will look them up on SKCC and determine if they are a duplicate ("DUPE") . Once you enter the call sign, if you have worked them before, you will see that data populate in the large box at the bottom of the screen. **One feature the logging software offers that I *personally* don't care for** is the "Auto-Fill" button. If this is checked, the other station's full information will be *automatically* inserted into the appropriate fields, including their SKCC number, city, state, and name. **My advice:** *be true to your own Morse skills* and leave the Auto-Fill button *unchecked*, and simply copy the SKCC number, name, and QTH yourself. But the choice is yours. If no data completes when using Auto-Fill that simply means the other station is *not yet* an SKCC member.



AC2C Logger actual interface dialog screens

No reason not to work them if you want to! They just won't count towards *your* goal of advancing to the next level of membership. Only working *other members* advances *you* in the SKCC club.

The Logger may also be used for the numerous SKCC sprints and other events held throughout the



year. It also keeps track of your progress in working towards the higher levels of membership as well as the scores in the various SKCC events.

According to Andy KØAF, Membership Manager for SKCC, *"SKCC Logger is a nice program but in my opinion its best feature is tracking progress toward any of the various SKCC awards you might be interested in pursuing. It not only tracks your progress but can also generate applications for the award when you reach your goal. It relieves you of bookkeeping chores and lets you spend your time on the air instead"*

The SKCC on-air exchange can be as basic as simply exchanging call signs, honest signal reports, name, location (QTH), and their SKCC number (NR). It's very important that you get that right so don't hesitate to send "NR AGN PSE?" (Number again please) if you didn't copy it—otherwise the QSO will not count.

An example SKCC QSO might look like this:

"CQ CQ CQ SKCC de W7UUU W7UUU K"

"W7UUU de KN7NNN UR RST 559 559 NAME DAVE QTH IS BURLEY WA NR 19657 19657 BK"

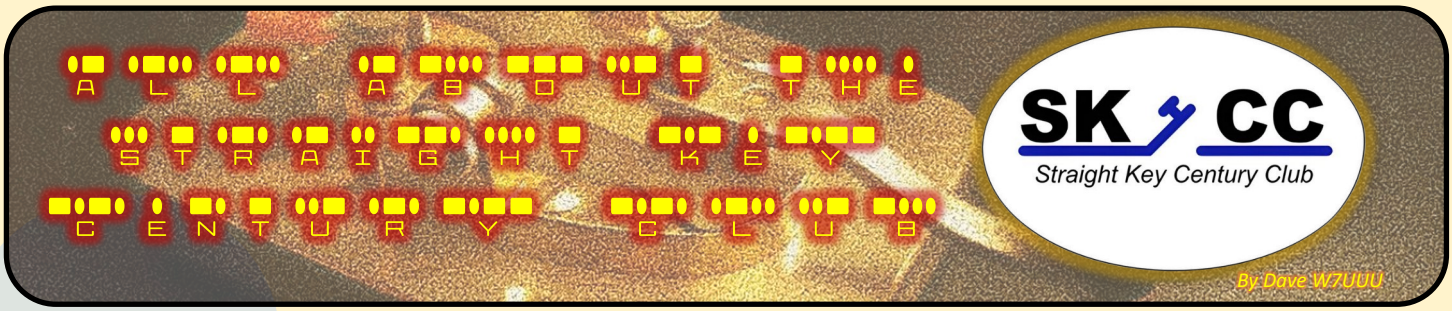
That would be a very typical basic SKCC exchange. Many operators omit city and just give the state—but I prefer to do it the way I've done since I was 13 years old.

Finding SKCC activity isn't hard, as the club has defined some "watering hole" frequencies around which members congregate. You can find a full list of frequencies at this [LINK]. Two of the more common frequencies I often find activity on are 7.055 on 40-meters, and around 14.050 on 20-meters. All frequencies are plus or minus 5 or 10 KHz to allow for QRM. Most callers will call "CQ SKCC" so they are very easy to find. The frequencies 7.114 and 21.114 are often occupied by slower operators, where speeds can be around 10 WPM. Many new CW operators will be found here, and more experienced members will gladly QRS (slow down) to help the folks just learning the ropes of CW.

In addition to working on your level of membership, SKCC also offers a wide selection of events to participate in and awards that can then be earned: Here's just a few—*all based on working SKCC members*:

- Worked All States (WAS)
- Worked All Continents (WAC)
- DXQ DX awards with numeric levels starting at 10
- PFX Award for levels of call sign prefix
- Ragchew Award—for QSOs of 30 minutes or more
- Marathon Award—100 QSOs 60 minutes or longer
- And ***many*** *more!*

Beautiful SKCC awards may be downloaded and printed for ***free***



But if working on leveling up your membership and chasing cool, artistic, and free operating awards isn't enough, there are the SKCC activities that can occupy more of your straight key time!

There are the Sprints and Saunters (fast and slow speed) contesting events working other SKCC members:

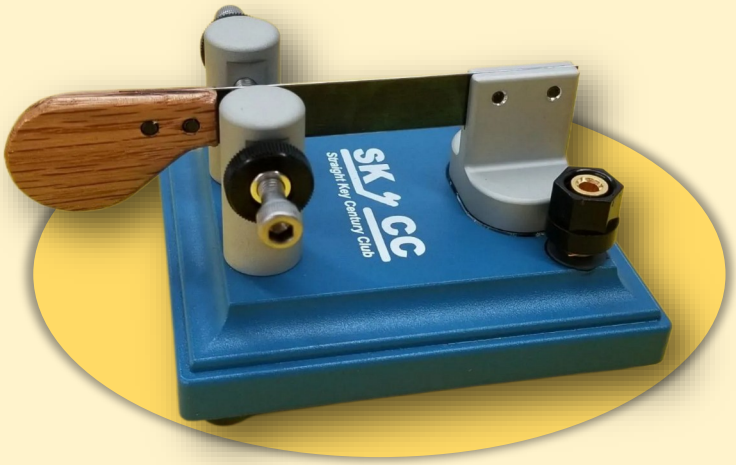
- Two-Hour Sprint 4th Wednesday each month
- Two-Hour Sprint Europe 1st Tuesday each month
- Two-Hour Sprint Asia 2nd Friday each month
- WES Weekend Sprintathon 2nd Saturday each month
- Annual SKCC QSO Party 3rd Weekend each June
- Slow Speed (12 WPM) Saunter 1st day every month
- Oceania QRS (slow speed) Saunter once every month
- And *many others* plus variations for C, T, & S

The SKCC is truly one of the standout organizations in amateur radio today. It's a *very* well-organized team of many volunteers to keep everything running like a well-oiled machine. I've honestly only touched on all that the SKCC is. If you have even the slightest interest in the Morse / CW traditions in amateur radio, please check them out using any of the links in this article.

As with most pieces I write for The Bark, I always strive to learn as much as I can about a topic—to dive deep and really grasp the concepts. In the case of SKCC, researching this article has inspired me to get back into my 11-year old SKCC interest and go at it with fresh eyes and a with a new excitement. I hope to work any who read this who are also in the SKCC.

Until then—73 and thanks for reading. *-Dave W7UUU*

So what is a "Cootie" key?



LNR Precision® SKCC Sideswiper or "Cootie" key. I can't find that it's still being produced but it's a very nice example of what such a key looks like. Click image to view online.

Many hams—even seasoned hams—may never have heard of or seen a Cootie key or Sideswiper. It may look like a keyer paddle but it's not. Instead of one side being dits and the other dahs, it's simply a single lever that the operator moves side to side. Each time the paddle stops on a left or right contact, the operator either holds it a long time for a dah or a short time for a dit. Ever-alternating back and forth, the motion (some say) allows for faster sending and reduced hand strain. The design dates back to the late 19th century, with the informal name coming from the motion of it moving back and forth like lice or a germ—"your key has cooties!".
As a young ham in 1975 shop class, I made my own cootie key and used it on the air for a month before deciding it wasn't for me. But maybe I'll give a cootie key another go soon, as I rekindle my own SKCC interests.

■ *-editor*

ASK ELMER!

Mystery Elmer

Dear Mr. Elmer,

A local ham friend turned me on to your Bark magazine on QRZ and I have to say it's really a nicely done publication. I started reading last month and now I'm going back through the issues and I'm really enjoying it. And I thought it would be fun to do the Mystery Elmer thing and send in a question that's been bugging me.

I wanted to get into ham radio when I was a teenager but I never did. This was back in the 1970s when I was living in Pawtucket, RI. It wasn't because I would have to learn Morse code. I actually wanted to use CW a lot and didn't even really think about using voice. I want very much to try it again now that I'm near my retirement age to have a fun hobby to retire into.

But I'm afraid from what I read online in forums and on Reddit, and frankly what my friend Matt here in SoCal has told me, how ham radio is on the decline and hams no longer use CW much at all. And if I go to all the trouble to get back into radio and start learning Morse code that in the end there won't be anyone to talk to. Are my fears justified?

-See Double You in San Diego

Dear See Double You,

Congratulations on your excellent taste in operating modes. As one person of retirement age to another, let me assert that CW is good for the brain, or so I fervently hope.

But I can't sugar-coat it... it is true that HF activity is much lower than it was in the 1970s. I remember very crowded band conditions then, and now that kind of congestion only happens during contests. Operators who will chat with you for half an hour or more using CW have become a bit scarce; but there are still some of us out here, even some very competent younger hams who find CW operation to be a thrill and a challenge. There are minor contests most weekends, and major ones now and then during the year. There is also quite a bit of interest using CW for POTA (Parks On The Air) and other field operating activities. SOTA (Summits On The Air) operators especially find CW to be a great way to use the lightweight, low power radios that are available now and can fit into a back pack.

Another avenue is the Straight Key Century Club or SKCC—where CW QSOs can be had most any day or night of the year. They are usually a slightly more involved exchange than a contest, and very often can turn into a ragchew should both parties feel up to it. You can read about SKCC at this link: https://www.skccgroup.com/

Coincidentally, there's also a full article on the SKCC elsewhere in this issue of The Logger's Bark.

CW is an aesthetically pleasing mode, once you get comfortable with it. There are elements of skill, and art, and certainly nostalgia -- it's the origin, a part of the culture of the hobby, the way radio was first used. Let's call it "The Beautiful Mode" -- join us and help keep it alive.

-Mystery Elmer

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

W7DK

	February	March, 2025				April
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9	February	February	February	February	February	February	1
10	2 10m Social Net	3 Slow Speed CW Net	4 Tuesday Nite Net	5 07:00pm Board meeting	6 Thursday HF Night	7	8 01:00pm General meeting ... Open House 10 to 2
11	9  SPRING	10 Slow Speed CW Net	11 07:00pm VE License Exam ... Tuesday Nite Net	07:00pm Board meeting	13 Thursday HF Night	14 	15 Open House 10 to 2
12	16 10m Social Net	17 Slow Speed CW Net	18 Tuesday Nite Net	19	20  	21	22 Open House 10 to 2
13	23 10m Social Net	24 Slow Speed CW Net	25 Tuesday Nite Net	26	27 Thursday HF Night	28	29 Hotdogs & mini-Swap
14	30 10m Social Net	31 Slow Speed CW Net	April	Apri			April

Recurring Special Contests All Categories ...

Did you know?

Friday March 14th is (3.14 of course) is the annual celebration of the mathematical constant π (Pi). The first three digits of Pi are 3, 1, and 4 hence the celebration date of 3/14 every year. First observed in 1988, **Pi Day** was founded by Larry Shaw of the Science Museum of San Francisco. Now—go have a piece of pie in celebration!

QRZ News You Can Use

HOW THE XENFORO FORUMS SEARCH FUNCTION WORKS

By Dave W7UUU

AS AN ADMIN AND MODERATOR ON QRZ, one of the most frequent questions that we receive in Support Tickets or the various help forums is "Why can't I find an ad for an Icom IC-7300 or Yaesu FTDX-101MP?" These are of course very valid questions to ask, and really do cause frustration among the site users.

First and foremost, it's important to understand that the forums software is not written by QRZ engineers. It's a product called XenForo and is currently one of the most popular of what are considered the "premium forums software platforms".

Second important thing to know: the XenForo platform search engine does not work like Google or DuckDuckGo! It's not AI-based, and does not have a contextual parsing engine. It's not at all like Google.

The search function in XenForo is an advanced algorithm based on Boolean Logic search options and concepts. To get the most out of it, users should learn some of the basic search operator terms and syntax for searching in a Boolean Logic environment.

It's a pretty simple form of algebra that uses three operators: AND, OR, and NOT (expressed as symbols **+**, **|**, and **−**) which combine with search terms and produce results that are either true or false. In practice, it's a lot easier than it sounds. The software engineers at XenForo wrote the search engine algorithm to suit the exacting needs of engineers in finding precise answers to questions. End-users of the software (QRZ users in this case) weren't really in mind when they created their search engine.

XenForo provides a variety of search parameters and logical operators that attempt to enhance the search functionality within the forums. So here is an overview of the key search parameters and operator commands available to users:

XenForo Boolean Logical Search Operators

- **AND:** Use **+** to indicate that both terms must be present in the results. Example: `term1 + term2` finds results containing both terms.
- **OR:** Use **|** (vertical bar symbol) to find results that contain either term. Example: `term1 | term2` retrieves results with either term.

The vertical bar or "pipe" symbol as it's sometimes called is most often on the same key as the "back-slash" key as seen in blue to the left.

- **NOT:** Use **−** (minus sign) to exclude specific terms from your search. For example `term1 - term2` will return results that include term1 but not term2. That's why searching for IC-7300 won't work! The software will only return results where there is an IC and not include results with 7300.
- **Exact Phrases:** Enclose phrases in quotes to search for an exact match. For example `"LDG IT-100 tuner"` or `"Icom IC-7300"`.
- **Wildcard Search:** Use ***** at the end of a word to find variations. For example: test* will match `test`, `testing`, `tester`, and `tested`.

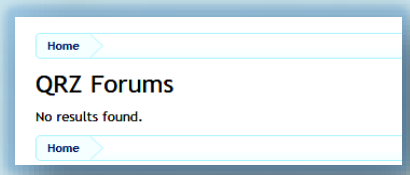
QRZ News You Can Use

HOW THE XENFORO FORUMS SEARCH FUNCTION WORKS

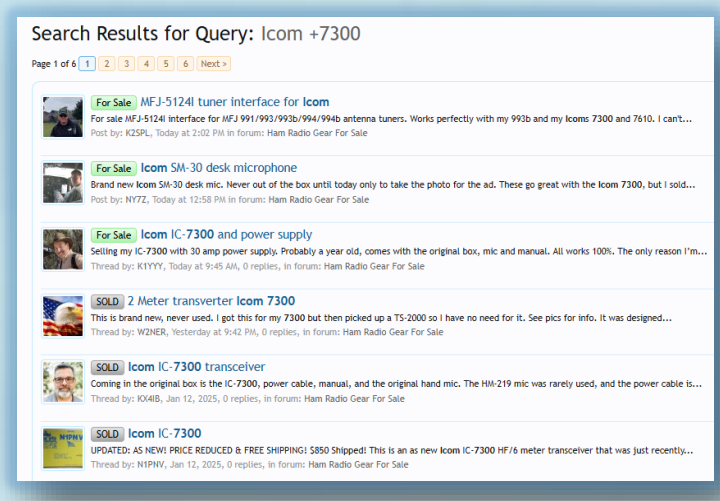
By Dave W7UUU

So now some examples:

Let's say you are trying to find an Icom IC-7300 that's for sale. If you simply enter `Icom IC-7300` in the Swapmeet forum search box, you will get nothing. That's because the hyphen or "minus sign" after the IC and before the 7300 tells the XenForo search to look for "all instances of IC that do not contain the numbers 7300". So as a result, you won't find any IC-7300 listings:



But if you use the **AND** operator (**+** sign) and search for `Icom IC + 7300` you will get lots of hits (*be sure to leave a space before* `+7300`):



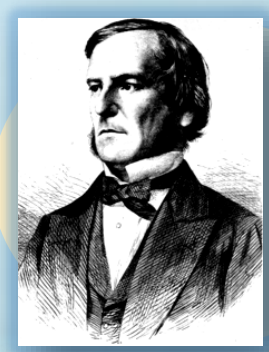
Similarly if you enter your search terms in quotes like this: `"Icom IC-7300"` in which case the hyphen is completely ignored.

Please understand that even using some of these tricks of the trade, the search algorithm may not always find what you're looking for. If you don't find what you're searching for, try varying your search terms and give it another shot.

-Dave W7UUU

Where does the term "Boolean Logic" come from?

BOOLEAN SEARCH LOGIC IS NAMED after George Boole, a 19th-century English mathematician. Boole developed a system of algebra that uses "true" and "false" values to solve logical problems. His work, called Boolean algebra, became the foundation for modern computer science and search engines. Boolean search logic uses operators like AND, OR, and NOT to narrow or broaden search results. For example, "`cats AND dogs`" finds results with both words, while "`cats OR dogs`" finds either (XenForo doesn't support the words, so in the forums, AND is +, OR is | and NOT is −). Search engines and databases use this system to help organize and filter information effectively. It's all thanks to George Boole's groundbreaking ideas in logic.



Portrait of Boole from The Illustrated London News, January 21, 1865.

Born November 2, 1815 in Lincoln, England

Died December 8, 1864 at the young age of 49

■ *-editor*

WINNIE DOW - 7FG

First Female Ham in the 7th Call District

By Dave W7UUU

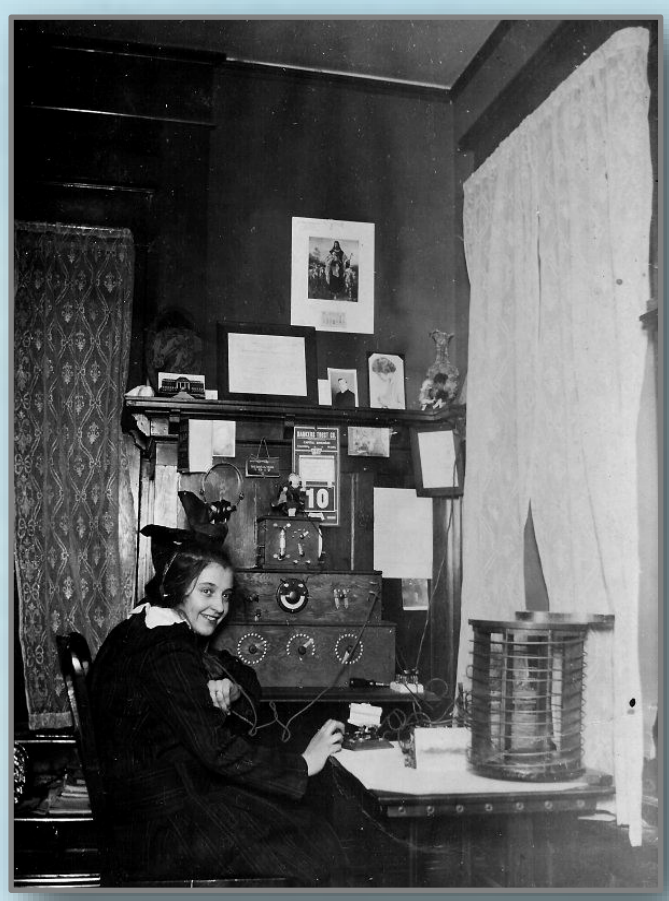
WINIFRED DOW 7FG (b. 1902 d. 2000) and later 7CB (after WWI, after she reapplied for a new license when the restrictions on hams were rescinded) was an early member (#40) of the Radio Club of Tacoma. As quoted from QST, April 1917:

"**With a claim to the distinction of being the first and only licensed girl operator of wireless telegraphy in the Pacific Northwest**, Miss Winifred Dow of Tacoma Saturday received from the United States Government through the radio inspector at Seattle, the license and authority to operate a second-class amateur wireless station.

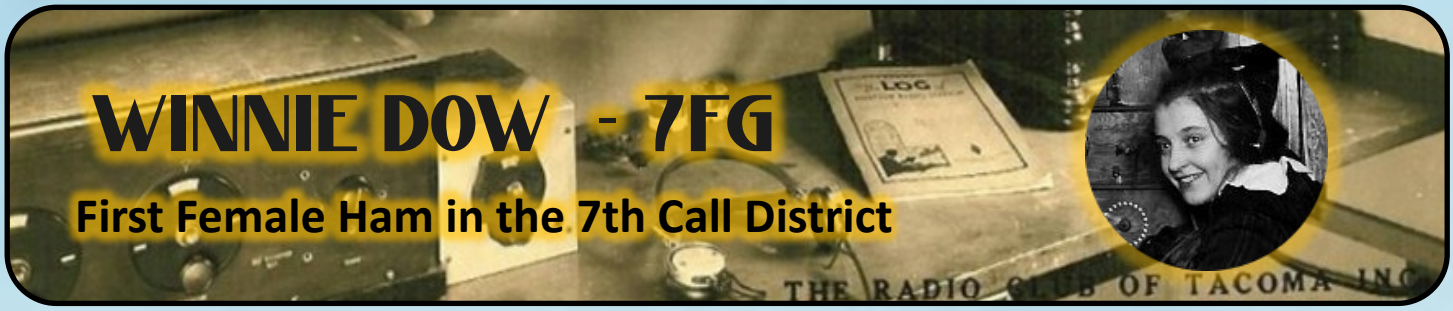
Miss Dow, though engaged in the study and practice of wireless telegraphy for only a few weeks, has shown such a proficiency in the science that a license was granted her upon her first request.

Of a mechanical turn of mind and displaying an ability to use tools more fitted for a man's hands, she has made a great part of her wireless outfit herself, the efficiency of which is said to show in no small way her skill in handiwork.

The receiving set, which is quite an elaborate affair, is enclosed in a well finished cabinet of slash grained Washington fir. The sending set, though not as powerful as Miss Dow says she would wish it to be, has, however, shown its ability to transmit good distances.



Winnie Dow 7FG (7CB after WWI) - above at age 14 in her spark shack in 1916; below at the RCT 50th Anniversary party in October 1966, being presented by Scotty K7CYZ



WINNIE DOW - 7FG

First Female Ham in the 7th Call District

The construction of a 1-kilowatt transformer is now her ambition, and with the installation of such an addition to her station her outfit will rank with the best that amateurs are allowed.

Miss Dow became interested in wireless through her visits to a wireless station in connection with St. Martin's abbey at Lacey, Wash., one of the best and far reaching amateur stations in this district, and her insight and understanding of this branch of science, she says, is due to the Rev, Father Sebastian Ruth, 0. S. B., operator of that station, who has instructed and helped her in the construction and operation of her station.

Miss Dow is 14 years old and is at present completing the eighth grade in the Visitation Academy. After her grammar grades she will take up a course of science in the high school, in the meanwhile perfecting herself in wireless.

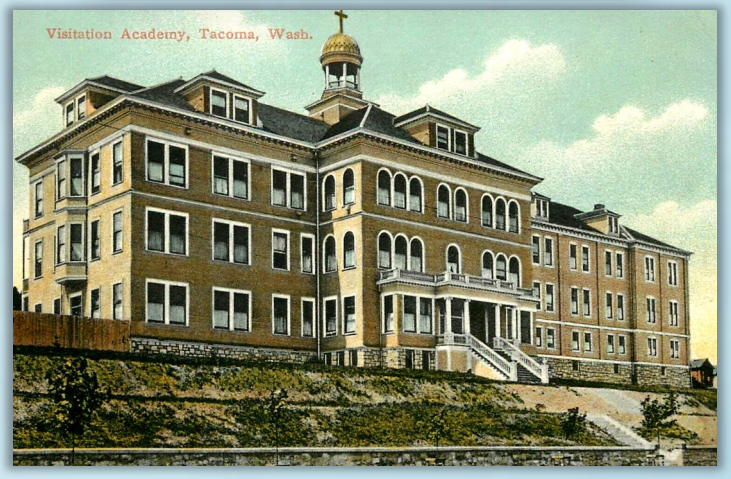
Miss Dow lives with her parents and older sister, Bertha, who has also shown promise of becoming an enthusiastic wireless operator, at 2329 South K street. *[house long ago gone –ed]*

The official call assigned Miss Dow is 7FG, the No. 7 denoting the district which comprises the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Montana, *[the original entire 7th district—ed.]* and the letters the special ones assigned to her station".

-Content ©ARRL, Inc. QST, April 1917

On several occasions, Winnie was known to refer to her first call letters, 7FG, as standing for "First Girl"—a fact of which I'm sure she was rightly proud of at the time. *-Dave W7UUU*

Miss Winifred Dow, Tacoma, Wash.
7FG



Miss Dow's school, Visitation Academy Tacoma as it appeared ca. 1910. The original structure is long gone.

IN 1966 MARGIE CHAVIS, K7AMJ (SK) put together a wonderful

50th Anniversary

scrapbook of W7DK club news clippings, notable events, photos, etc. This monthly column will run for just a few issues, and feature selected items from the scrapbook just for a glimpse into the club's past. Even those readers who are not a member will still find enjoyment in reading about historical ham radio tidbits from more than half a century ago.

–editor

ONE OF THE MORE ECLECTIC CLIPPINGS in Margie's book is this Tacoma News Tribune blurb from 1963 (exact date not known). It describes three hams, one of whom was an RCT member, conducting ostensibly the world's first (and only?) ham radio QSO using only a bacteria-powered battery. Before you laugh, it must be noted that biobatteries really are a thing even in this modern era [LINK]

The hams involved were Pat W7NTV (RCT #474), Louis W7VDG, and a Dr. Charles Thompson (his call sign, if any, was omitted from the article).

The bacteria came from the mystery Tacoma firm headed by a Fred Shanaman Jr. who was a well-known figure in Tacoma during that era. But no amount of searching has turned up any information on his firm that was apparently "manufacturing and marketing the new invention" in the Tacoma area at that time. If you happen to have more information on any of this, I would love to hear from you.

-Dave W7UUU

3 Tacoma Radio Hams Claim 'First'

1963

Three Tacoma amateur radio operators are claiming a "first" in the radio world.

Their achievement: The first short wave radio contact using a transmitter powered only by bacteria-powered battery.

Dr. Charles E. Thompson said yesterday that he, Louis R. Adaman and Patrick O'Farrell read about the biological fuel cell—a battery powered by bacteria who live on ground-up rice husks—in The News Tribune.

Adaman obtained some of the bacteria from Fred Shanaman Jr., who heads the Tacoma firm manufacturing and marketing the new invention.

"The three of us built the battery together," Dr. Thompson said.

And Friday evening, at Adaman's home, 8310 Custer Road SW, Adaman's station W7VDG made contact with O'Farrell's station, K7NTV.

RETURN TO HOME PAGE

email loggersbark@gmail.com

IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THIS COLUMN, I thought I would write a bit about a pretty amazing entry-level 5-band multi-mode amateur transceiver called the (tr)uSDX. Designed by Manuel DL2MAN of Germany and Guido PE1NNZ of The Netherlands, the somewhat odd model number actually stands for "true micro SDX" (Software defined transceiver) - the SDX was the original concept project by Guido and Manuel, with the (tr) "True" version being the more complete and stable version with lots of refinements.

Bearing in mind this is a tiny hand-held-size QRP transceiver, it has some pretty amazing specifications:

- **Bands:** 80m, 60m, 40m, 30m, & 20m
- **Modes:** SSB, CW, AM and FM (non USA markets)
- **Power Output:** 3-5 watts, depending on voltage
- **Power Required:** 9-12VDC, 12V being optimal
- **Current Draw**: roughly 500mA on transmit
- **Antenna connection:** BNC
- **Built-in:** Microphone and Speaker
- **Display:** Small but crisp monochrome LCD

The transceiver is available as a kit for $86 (plus shipping) or for only $138 fully assembled from New DIY Tech [LINK]. I never would have imagined you could buy a fully-functional, reasonably high-tech 5-band SDR QRP ham radio transceiver for such a low price. And you're not just limited to CW, as would often be the case. You also get SSB, AM, and FM (although the HF bands the uSDX offers do not allow FM operation by amateurs in the U.S. This is an option for other IARU regions where FM is permitted on HF bands below 10-meters).

I was initially skeptical of the "built in microphone and speaker" approach. But just take a few minutes and watch the video below—it's pretty amazing how well this tiny rig performs on the air. Note that the video also shows a sped-up view of kit construction, should you wish to go that route, but also shows it in on-the-air operation at only one watt towards the end! Granted, the on-air portion of the video is in German but it's pretty easy to get an idea how well it works.

Overall this is an impressive QRP rig offering—and I fully plan to add one to my arsenal and hopefully have a follow-up article later this year with my impressions.

-73 Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

New RCT member Spencer KK7YEG paid a visit to the clubhouse to make introductions. Welcome!

Red WB7EC and Paul N7OSS sort gear in the W7DK lockup in prep for the M&K Ham Fair this month

Brotherly "bro hug" - John KI7YRC with buddy Nolan K7GBM on a recent Saturday open house

Ellen AI7FP hanging out in the W7OS Museum

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

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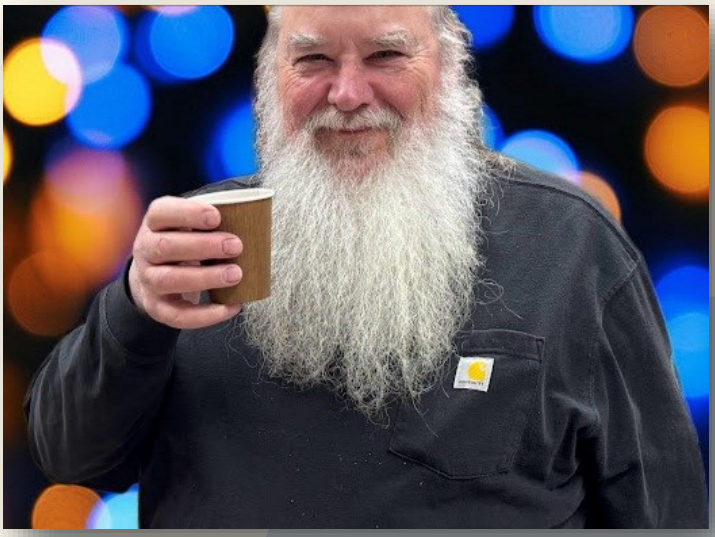
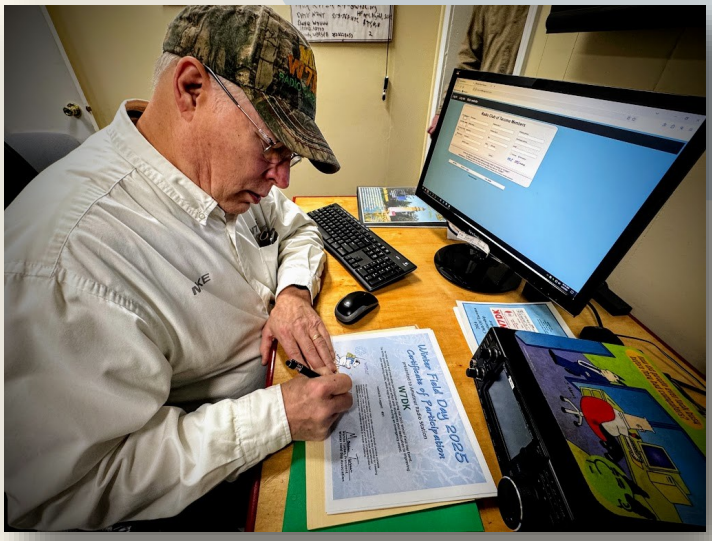
AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse



John KJ7SJM offers up a Coffee Toast! Google Photos surprised me with the "spotlight" background so I rolled with it … what can I say?!

Museum Curator Dan KD7SV having a great time gearing up for SKCC Weekend Sprint



Mike W7MKE diligently filling out fourteen participation certificates for Winter Field Day

Walt WA7SDY standing by for the Noontime Net to fire up!

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Randy WB4SPB coordinates with Dan KD7SV on the SKCC Weekend Sprint plan

Chef Paul W7PFU, Anne N7ANN, and Phil KC7PS share a fun moment in the Classroom

Dave W7UUU hanging out in the W7OS museum

Photo by Anne N7ANN

"The Gang's all here" in the Lou Room

Photo by Anne N7ANN

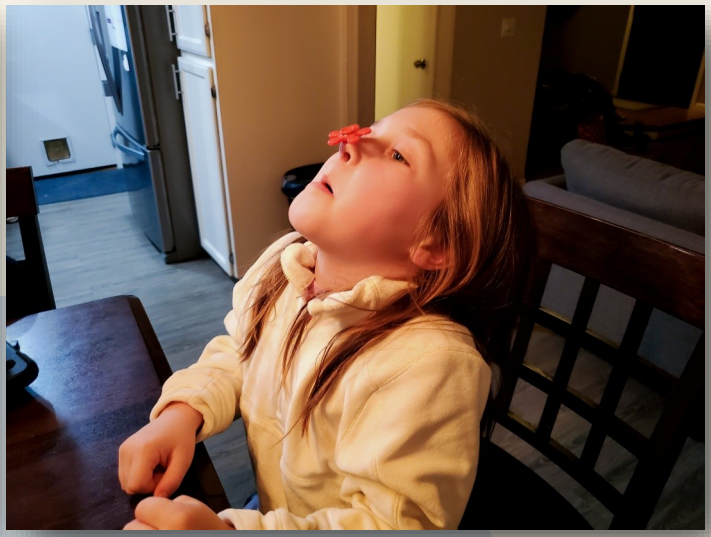
Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU except as noted

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Stephen AD7AB hard at work setting up radio programming in the Lou room.



Harper, age 7, is granddaughter to Mike W7MKE. She's demonstrating her "nose balancing of a fidget spinner" skills. Photo by Mike W7MKE

Nolan K7GBM chats it up with Bob K7MXE

Another time Bob K7MXE hung out with Scott KA7IOX

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU except as noted

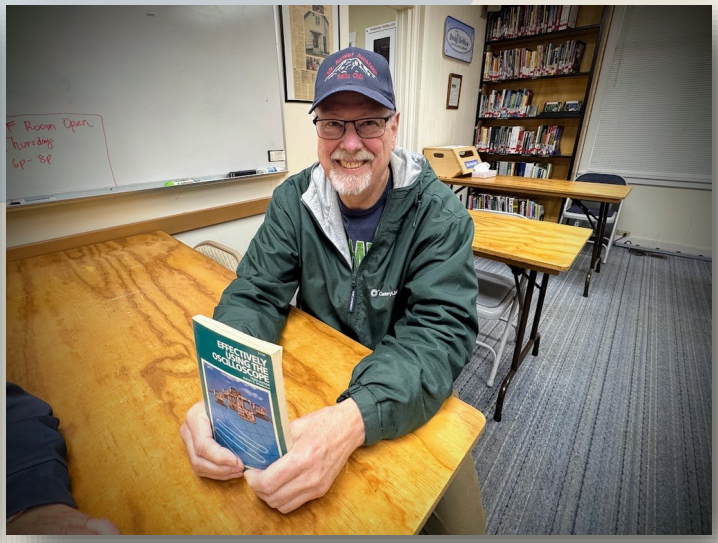
AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Table server Mike W7XH provides a coffee refill for David AC7KP. "You forgot the cream!"

Walt WA7SDY checks into the Noontime Net on 40-meters, 7.284

Doug AB7DG, Mike W7MKE, and Adam W2NCC debate the merits of various Krispy Crème donuts



Al N7OMS gives us a smile as he takes a break from his Oscilloscope "how to" book

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Walt WA7SDY shares his ever-present smile in the classroom on a recent Saturday in the clubhouse

Deep in discussion: Dave KK7NYW and Stephen AD7AB

President Adam W2NCC with Bob K7MXE filling the tires on the W7DK Ham Fest gear hauler

Randy WB4SPB talks tech with Museum Curator Dan KD7SV in the W7OS museum

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Dan KD7SV covers operation concepts of the Kenwood TS-820s owned by Jessica KK7VHH

Al N7OMS works with Mike W7MKE to sort out an operation issue with the Flex 6600 system

Steve AD7VL tells the story of how he installed the club flagpole in the front yard years ago.

Mini-Swapmeet Day in the clubhouse! David AC7KP in the hat with Warren NG7G

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

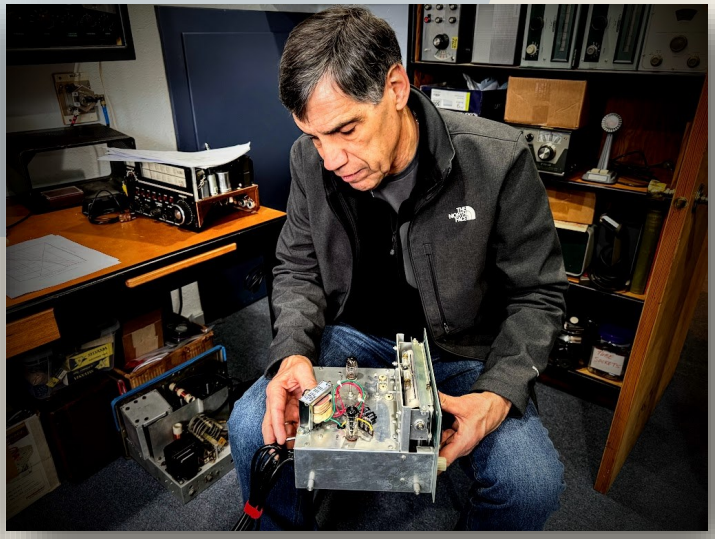
AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

Randy WB4SPB focuses on the alignment procedure for the Museum's HT-32A transmitter

Doug W1UG taking some time in the W7OS Doc Spike Memorial Museum

Hanging out in the W7DK RCT classroom on a recent Saturday



Museum curator Dan KD7SV shows off his newly modified HG-10 VFO with a new power supply he built on the chassis

Got pictures from the clubhouse? Send 'em in!

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE

Recent Photo highlights from the Clubhouse

W7DK

March Birthdays!!

461	Bob Heselberg	K7MXE
733	Tim Timblin	K7HF
1354	Jerry Cerny	WJC
1687	Steve Terjerson	KC7AZW
2066	Raymond Miller	KC7VEP
2088	Chuck Kemmer	AC7QN
2209	Jon Hamilton	AD7AW
2375	Bob Bosnyak	AD7WU
2392	Doug Reynolds	K7FDR
2548	Charles Barbe	KF7YEL
2602	Dave Sharpes	K7GCA
2656	Anne Ellison	N7ANN
2657	Mike Isakson	W7XH
2751	Bo Deren	K7JBD
2759	Jim Hansen	AG7LO
2788	Becky Friedman	KG7FZH
2807	Kerry Harris	KI7LTV
2844	Tony Garza	KI7LYU
2861	Steve Bernick	KJ7BDL
2870	Rick Krog	AG7RX
2895	Joe Rempe	KJ7JAY
2932	Dave Parks	KJ7MPD
2953	Ellen Hardin	AI7FP
2963	Cliff McCollum	K7VAF
2965	Jim Roach	AI7OZ
3002	Rod Kirsch	W7RKZ
3077	Martin Graham	KX7MLG
3104	Ryan Kennedy	KK7OYD
3166	James Aigner	N7MU
3170	Debbra Collazo	No call
3174	Michael Montfort	KB0SVF
3182	Geoff Pursel	KK7WMP
3197	Erkie Freutel	N7GRK

Still have a bunch of boat anchor rigs in the lockup! Hopefully they sell at Mike & Key Hamfest

Mini-Swapmeet day—Chef Paul W7PFU in the blue hat and Ellen AI7FP head up the class

photos by Dave W7UUU

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MOST EVERY THURSDAY EVENING from 6PM until 9PM, the Radio Club of Tacoma opens the HF room for one-on-one training time. Saturdays are a great time to come see the clubhouse and socialize, but often it's tough to get "quality time" with the radios. This weekly event is open to all—members and non-members alike. There is always at least one Extra Class operator on hand with a solid knowledge of the Icom and Flex radios in use, as well as the antenna patch bay, amplifiers, and tuners. Even non-licensed "hams to be" can take a hand operating under the tutelage and watchful eye of an experienced "Elmer" on hand to show the ropes. Come on by any Thursday! ■ *-editor*

Jessica KK7VHH makes her first ever HF 40m SSB contact using the Flex 6600 by working a QRP station in Idaho (photo taken while working FT8 as w7DK)

Photo by Mike W7MKE

Brad KK7YQC making his first HF contact on a recent Thursday HF night at the clubhouse! Awesome!
Photo by Julie W7JUL

David AC7KP, Julie W7JUL, and Jeff W7NGS on a recent Thursday "HF Night" at the clubhouse
Photo by Mike W7MKE

Open House Reminder!

THIS IS JUST A WELCOMING & REMINDER that the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse holds an open house on most Saturdays of the year (click HERE for exclusions) from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. There's always a nice group of members but ALL visitors interested in amateur radio are welcome to stop by! You do not have to be a member or even a ham to visit us. Please be sure to sign the Visitor's Logbook in the kitchen, say hello to your Clubhouse Host, have a cup of coffee and a donut (always a nice assortment on hand). You may wander the building—visiting the classroom, the downstairs "shack parlor" we call The Lou Room, and of course upstairs to see the main HF room and the W7OS Doc Spike Memorial museum—a living collection of vintage gear that regularly gets on the air.

The last Saturday of every month, we hold a mini flea market where members can sell their ham gear. But even non-members are eligible to dicker for deals and take home gear. And starting around 11:30, our club Chef Paul W7PFU serves up free chilidogs, or sometimes burgers or spaghetti at the chef's whim. We hope to see you stop by soon!

■ *-editor*

Mini-Swap Meet Monthly

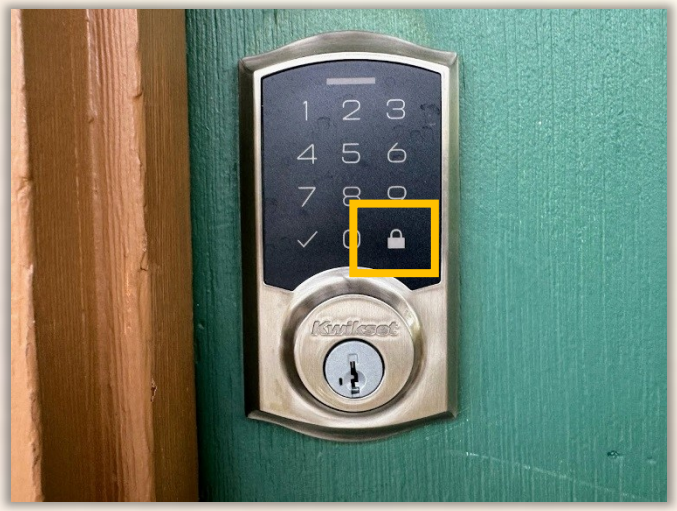
DO YOU HAVE EXCESS GEAR TO SELL? Members of The Radio Club of Tacoma have a little perk every month with our own mini Swapmeet held in the clubhouse on the last Saturday of each month. No charge for a table—just bring your wares and set up shop! Non-members and visitors are free to stop by and see if they can pick up bargains. The club also has gear donated regularly that is made available to visitors and members alike, available for purchase via donation. And of course, as mentioned in the Open House reminder, the club chef Paul W7PFU cooks up chilidogs or spaghetti (whatever suits his mood!) at no charge for guests. ■ *-editor*

How To Lock The Doors

AS WAS REPORTED in last month's Bark by our club Secretary, Gary WG7X, in recent months there have been reports of the clubhouse being found unattended and the doors not even locked! Obviously, this is not acceptable. It's the responsibility of the Club Hosts on Open House Day (Saturday) or those who have door and alarm codes on other days to make certain the building is secure when leaving.

But should you be in the position of being the "last one out", you can still LOCK THE DOOR even if you don't have the code or a key. Simply pull the door closed and push the "lock symbol". The battery-powered mechanism will then lock the door (you won't be able to get back in without the code!). This applies to both the front door and the back door. See photo below—note the "lock" button.

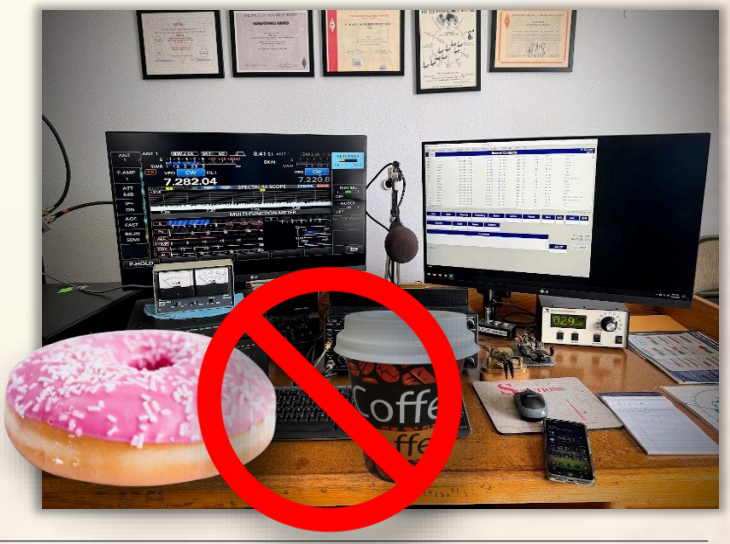
-Dave W7UUU

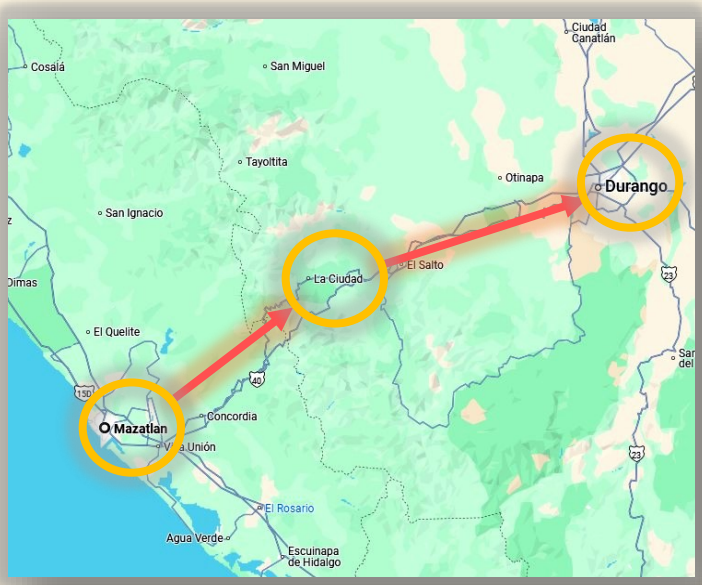


Help Keep The Clubhouse Clean

THIS IS JUST A GENTLE REMINDER that the W7DK Clubhouse is for all members to use and enjoy, and is a place to put our best foot forward as a club for visitors we welcome in almost every Saturday of the year.

Please be mindful of leaving trash, empty cans or bottles, food wrappers, McDonalds bags, and whatever else. Same holds for coffee cups… we frequently see cups left on classroom tables, the kitchen counters, at the Lou Room table, and wherever else. Please just make sure to "pick up after yourself". Also, remember that liquids and radios don't mix. Please don't take cans or cups of beverages into the HF room or the Museum—just water bottles with lids or closures of some sort. And no "sticky foods" like donuts! No one wants to reach for the tuning knob only to find your sticky donut residue on it!





Approximate flight path of the missing Cessna 150

VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT THE DISAPPEARANCE of Radio Club member Art Wing, W7JGN (presumed SK). Art was a local Tacoma, Washington businessman running a small chain of grocery stores called Shopmart (notably in the 84th and Pacific Avenue area). He was a long-time member of the W7DK club.

47 years ago this month on the morning of March 16, 1978, Art, a skilled private pilot, took off in a presumably rented Cessna 150 2-seater aircraft from the Mazatlán (MZT) airport at approximately 9:16 AM local time, bound for Durango City airport (DGO) via La Ciudad, with arrival expected just over two hours later. On board was pilot Art, along with passenger Arturo Lopez (relation not known, nor if a ham operator or not). However, they never made their destination and were reported to authorities as missing by friends the following day.

An extensive search was launched, involving not only local search aircraft but also private searchers as part of the "Friends of Pilot Wing" team. To date, no trace of Wing's aircraft has ever been found (I've searched extensively for any follow-up reports of the recovered aircraft but have turned up nothing).

The plane was a Cessna 150 (unknown which variant) - the 5th most manufactured plane in history (its later successor the 172 is the #1 top plane of all time in terms of numbers built). The 150 is a well-known solid performer, fitted with a Continental O-200 100hp piston engine . Depending on which model variation Mr. Wing was flying, range would typically be just over 400 miles. Mazatlán to Durango City is about 125 miles. Load capacity on a typical Cessna 150 is about 500 pounds including fuel, passenger, and all luggage. If they had a full tank of fuel, that would be 135 pounds, leaving only 365 pounds which must include the two occupants and all that they might have brought with them on the flight to Durango City.

MISSING OR DOWNED AIRCRAFT

Date:	1978 March 22, 00:00 (Wednesday)	Canonical ID:	1978MAZATL00107_d
Original Classification:	UNCLASSIFIED	Current Classification:	UNCLASSIFIED
Handling Restrictions	-- N/A or Blank --	Character Count:	2628
Executive Order:	-- N/A or Blank --	Locator:	TEXT ON MICROFILM,TEXT ONLINE
TAGS:	CASC - Consular Affairs--Assistance to Citizens | CDES - Consular Affairs--Death and Estates | CGEN - Consular Affairs--General	Concepts:	-- N/A or Blank --
Enclosure:	-- N/A or Blank --	Type:	TE - Telegram (cable)
Office Origin:	-- N/A or Blank --	Archive Status:	Electronic Telegrams
Office Action:	ACTION SCS - Special Consular Services		
From:	Mexico Mazatlán	Markings:	Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014
To:	Mexico Mexico City | SECSTATE NIAC		

Content | Raw content | Metadata | Raw source | Share | Print | Show Headers

1. CONGRESSMAN BONKERS' OFFICE INTERESTED.
2. CONSULATE INFORMED OF DISAPPEARANCE OF CESSNA 150 N-777 AW
AT 8:30 PM, MARCH 16, BY FRIENDS OF PILOT, TACOMA, WASHINGTON,
BUSINESSMAN ARTHUR WING. FLIGHT PLAN FILED MAZATLAN AIRPORT
HAD WING AND MEXICAN CITIZEN PASSENGER ARTURO LOPEZ DEPARTING
MAZATLAN AT 9:16 AM MARCH 15, SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE DURANGO AT
11:46 AM. NO CONTACT WITH AIRCRAFT REPORTED AFTER ITS DEPARTURE
FROM MAZATLAN.
ON MARCH 17, CONSULATE ASKED MAZATLAN AIRPORT COMMANDER TO
HAVE ALL PLANES FLYING THIS ROUTE MAKE SEARCH. FRIENDS OF
PILOT WING ASSISTED WITH PRIVATE AIRCRAFT.
CONSUL REPORTED INCIDENT TO DEFENSE ATTACHE AND SPECIAL
CONSULAR SERVICE IN EMBASSY ON MARCH 17 AND MARCH 20 IN EFFORTS
TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL AID, ALSO DEA MAZATLAN WAS INFORMED AND
REQUESTED SEEK AID FROM MEXICAN COUNTERPARTS. CONGEN MONTERREY
ALSO NOTIFIED AND ASKED TO ENLIST SUPPORT OF DURANGO AUTHORITIES
UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIEDMAZATL 00107 231457Z

IN LOCATING MR. WING. NUMEROUS FALSE REPORTS RE AIRCRAFT
SIGHTINGS WERE RECEIVED AND FOLLOWED THROUGH WITH NEGATIVE
RESULTS. SEVERAL WERE APPARENT HOAXES.
CONSULATE ALSO ENLISTED ASSISTANCE FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
HELICOPTERS AND MEXICAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS IN CULIACAN. ON
MARCH 20, WING'S BROTHER, FIRST FAMILY MEMBER TO CONTACT CONSULATE,

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014
ARRIVED ACCOMPANIED BY A PILOT FRIEND WHO WAS PUT IN CONTACT
WITH SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE SAR AND ADVISED BY THEM THAT
APPROPRIATE AIRCRAFT FOR MOUNTAIN SEARCHING UNAVAILABLE.
3. SEARCH CONTINUES BY PRIVATE AIRCRAFT AND WILL BE CONCENTRATED
IN AREA BETWEEN LA CIUDAD AND DURANGO CITY. CONSUL HAS
ASSURANCES FROM FEDERAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY IN CULIACAN
THAT HELICOPTERS WILL CONTINUE PARTICIPATE IN SEARCH.
4. WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.
MATTHEWS

Actual Consular Affairs Telex regarding the case of Art Wing W7JGN and the report of the missing Cessna 150. The tail number was reassigned in 1978, so no information of the original aircraft can be found based on that. Source: Wikileaks.org [LINK]

The path between the two cities is extremely mountainous, with published peaks as high as 12,000 feet (with some of the charts considered outdated and inaccurate, resulting in some peaks actually being as high as 14,000 feet). While the rated service ceiling of the original Cessna 150 is 15,300 feet, you cannot legally fly that high without auxiliary oxygen when flying above 12,500 feet for more than 30 minutes. 14,000 and higher the pilot is required to have full-time oxygen.

It's therefore not at all unreasonable to conclude that Art Wing charted a very dangerous course and met with disaster due to the "Swiss Cheese" model with all the holes lining up perfectly: underpowered, over weight, and unable to climb above impending terrain. Search efforts were concentrated for many days in those very mountains, but to this day, no wreckage has ever been spotted nor recovered.

-Dave W7UUU

President Adam W2NCC and Secretary Gary WG7X prepare for the February General Meeting

Mike W7MKE heads to his table with a piping-hot hotdog and chips from the Eagles Club bar

Meeting Door Greeter Leonard KA7NWF welcomes in visitors and members while handing out Door Prize raffle tickets

Anne N7ANN settles in to watch the meeting

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

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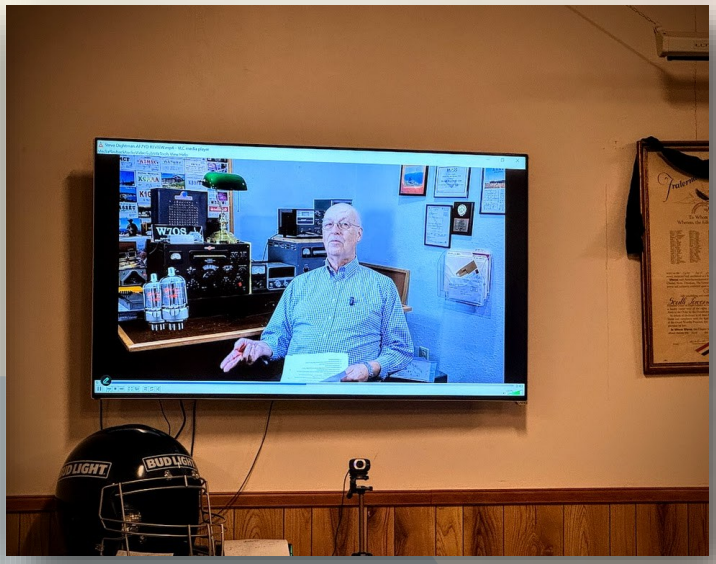
GENERAL MEETING

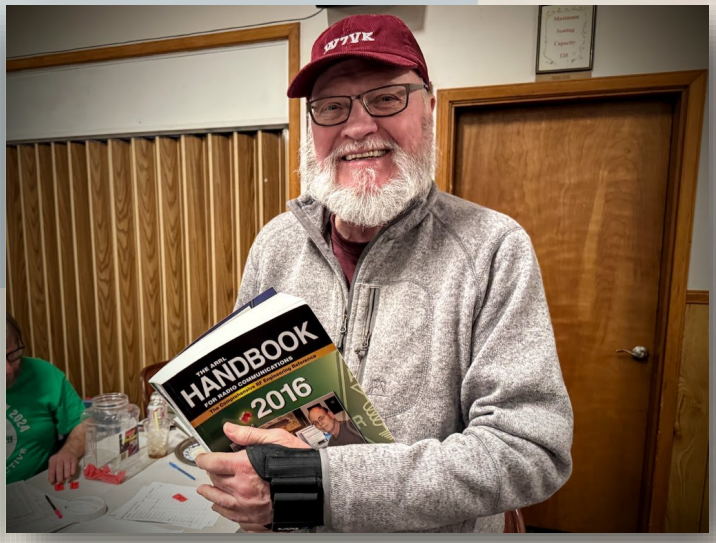
Brad KK7YQC shows off his 2025 Winter Field Day Participation Award



The Club Program was the Living History video of Steve AF7YD (SK). It was as if he was there with us.

Click photo to view the video on YouTube

Jiro KW6A expresses his thanks and joy at receiving his W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma Membership certificate—we're very glad to have you, Jiro!



The meeting always concludes with a Door Prize drawing and here we see Jim W7VK beaming over his ARRL Handbook win

All photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

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STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Retro Camera Fun With An Old Sony!

DURING A RECENT SATURDAY OPEN HOUSE, Wade W7ITL (pictured below, center) had a cool old camera with him that caught my eye… a year 2001 vintage Sony Mavica MVC-FD87. Several very cool features of this camera made it a stand-out in the brand new "digital camera" market. The most striking is the fact it was part of the Mavica series which used 3.5 inch 1.44 MB floppy discs for storage. While not a "cutting edge" camera, the MVC-FD87 had some features lacking in the rest of the market: 1.3 megapixel CCD sensor (1280x960 pixel images), a 3x optical zoom, and a 2.5" color TFT LCD monitor for both a photo preview as well as playback screen. That was pretty cool stuff 25 years ago! At $599 the year it debuted, it was pretty high end. There were much more capable cameras but at that price point it offered a lot of nice features for the money.

3.5" 1.44mb floppy discs

I remember very much wanting a Mavica back then, simply because of the super-easy storage on 1.44 MB floppy discs which were cheap as dirt. The 1.44 meg storage gave you room for 6 high-resolution photos! But considering how cheap the floppies were, and how compact, it was totally reasonable to stuff a small box of 10 discs in your camera bag for a day of shooting, for a total of around 60 pictures which was not bad at all in the early digital camera days!

According to Wade, "I purchased this camera recently from a local computer/electronics recycler. The main reason I bought it was it was hitting my nostalgia nerve. For one, it's vintage! And two, it uses floppy discs—what more could you ask for? There's just something about the mechanical operation, and the sounds of whirring floppy discs that has always fascinated me from an early age. Added bonus: it really takes good photos for such an early camera."

And indeed it does! In the photos below, the one on the left and right were both taken by Wade with his Mavica, with the center being taken by me just a moment later but using my iPhone, of Wade proudly showing us his MVC-FD87 camera.

The Mavica really can still provide some excellent photos that are nothing to scoff at—despite its age and floppy-disc storage.

Thanks Wade for sharing your story with me about this cool and very nostalgic find!

-Dave W7UUU

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THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

Highlighted photos from the club's past

Researched & Compiled by the Dave W7UUU

Archive Photo

Founding members of Radio Club of Tacoma: L>R Alvin Stenso 7LB, later 7LV, Edwin Moe 7AG, Howard Reichert 7HR, and Dwight Mason 7DL

WHILE RECENTLY DIGGING THROUGH MY scanned archive of old W7DK photos, I found one that showed Dwight Allyn Mason 7DL (1898-1977) at a later stage of his life—possibly a QCWA event. While undated, the photo is thought to be from the mid-1960s. Dwight was born in Winchendon, Massachusetts and at an early age moved to Washington . According to the Club's Archivist and Historian, Doug AD7AV in the 2020 History of the Radio Club of Tacoma booklet, "It is recorded in *Bark* Alumni Notes by Doc Spike (W7OS) that the first meeting of the Radio Club took place in Mr. Mason's home October 20, 1916 (but Al Stenso says it was fall 1915). Mason became the first vice president of the Radio Club of Tacoma".

Dwight's call sign 7DL appears in the July 1, 1916 edition of the Department of Commerce *Radio Stations of the United States* reference of ham operators. But by the 1919 issue (there were no such books issued for 1917 or 1918 due to WWI), Dwight is no longer listed. No amount of searching in later compendia of ham call signs (such as *Callbook Magazine*) turns up a match, suggesting that Dwight left the hobby sometime prior to 1919. Possibly the two-year cessation of all amateur radio operations in the U.S. due to World War I, when hams not only could not transmit, they also were prohibited from using receivers or even having antennas, drove him away from the hobby for some unknown amount of time. But based on photos with the club at events in later years, it appears he possibly became a ham again later in life. If anyone knows his call sign (if any) at the time of the photo above, please shoot me an email and let me know. Regardless of later ham activity, Dwight remains in our memory to this day one of the original founding members of the Radio Club of Tacoma back in October of 1916. He passed away at age 78 on July 14, 1977.

-Dave W7UUU (quoted content by Doug AD7AV as noted above)

RCT Bulletin Board

Posted notes and other important stuff

Here's a **useful tip** when reading the Bark: if you want to view a link, "right click" > "Open link in new window"… that way you won't lose your place in the Bark!

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Logger's Bark does not use ChatGPT or other AI creation sites to *write articles*. Sometimes graphics are AI generated out of need for license-free images, but NEVER is the text… we *don't allow any AI* written article submissions ■ *-editor*

Last month's Hidden Object:

On Page 75, in the LampTenna article, on the table by the window

Last Month's Hidden Word:

reactance

It was hidden on page 52 of the article on power supply safety symbols. See if you can find this month's Hidden Word and win some W7DK & QRZ stickers mailed directly to you!

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WA7BNM CONTEST CALENDAR

Contest events for the coming month

HUGE THANKS TO Mr. Bruce Horn, WA7BNM for publishing his "Contest Calendar" for all these many years… a truly wonderful resource for finding virtually every ham radio contest on Earth that might be happening, in most any mode and most any region in the world. Follow the link to take you to the site, then sort through the various options to find the specifics of every upcoming event. For now, here's the **WA7BNM** Contest Calendar for the this month. Click the calendar below to visit Bruce's site directly.

March 2025	
ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 1 to 2359Z, Mar 2
Wake-Up! QRP Sprint	0600Z-0800Z, Mar 1
Open Ukraine RTTY Championship	1800Z, Mar 1 to 1359Z, Mar 2
SARL Hamnet 40m Simulated Emerg Contest	1200Z-1400Z, Mar 2
NSARA Contest	1200Z-2200Z, Mar 2
ARS Spartan Sprint	0100Z-0300Z, Mar 4
AGCW YL-CW Party	1900Z-2100Z, Mar 4
Novice Rig Roundup	0000Z, Mar 8 to 2359Z, Mar 16
YB DX RTTY Contest	**Cancelled for 2025**
Commonwealth (BERU) Contest	1000Z, Mar 8 to 1000Z, Mar 9
EA PSK63 Contest	1200Z, Mar 8 to 1200Z, Mar 9
South America 10 Meter Contest	1200Z, Mar 8 to 1200Z, Mar 9
DIG QSO Party, SSB	1200Z, Mar 8 to 1100Z, Mar 9
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon	1200Z, Mar 8 to 2359Z, Mar 9
AGCW QRP Contest	1400Z-2000Z, Mar 8
Oklahoma QSO Party	1500Z, Mar 8 to 2100Z, Mar 9
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Mar 8 to 1500Z, Mar 9
Idaho QSO Party	1900Z, Mar 8 to 1900Z, Mar 9
North American Sprint, RTTY	0000Z-0359Z, Mar 9
Wisconsin QSO Party	1800Z, Mar 9 to 0100Z, Mar 10
4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 10
PODXS 070 Club St Patrick's Day Contest	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 15
BARTG HF RTTY Contest	0200Z, Mar 15 to 0159Z, Mar 17
Russian DX Contest	1200Z, Mar 15 to 1200Z, Mar 16
Virginia QSO Party	1400Z, Mar 15 to 2359Z, Mar 16
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest	1400Z-1800Z, Mar 15
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	2300Z, Mar 16 to 0100Z, Mar 17
Bucharest Digital Contest	1800Z-2059Z, Mar 17
NTC QSO Party	1900Z-2000Z, Mar 20
FOC QSO Party	0000Z-2359Z, Mar 22
SKCC Sprint	0000Z-0200Z, Mar 26
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB	0000Z, Mar 29 to 2359Z, Mar 30

WA7BNM Contest Calendar data used with permission

Background Image Source LINK

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THE W7DK ELMER BOARD

Do you have a skill or tool to help new hams?

YOU! YES *YOU!* Do YOU have a skill you could pass on to new amateur radio operators? Do you possess a skill or piece of gear that you're willing to share with others to fix antenna problems, diagnose noise issues, drive a ground rod, teach Morse, help teach technical topics? If the answer is YES you too could be a W7DK Elmer!! Let any officer know what your skills are or how you could help new hams get a leg up on the hobby. And if you're one of those already on the list, are there any changes we should be aware of? If so please hit the email address (found bottom of page on the right) and let us know so we can update the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma "Elmer Board".

NEW HAMS OR MEMBERS: If you are looking for help, and NEED AN ELMER to help guide your way, use this table! Find the skill you need on the left, then look for an Elmer Provider of that skill on the right and reach out to them. ALL of these Elmer's have committed to helping so please don't hesitate.

ELMER ("MENTOR") BOARD

Do you need help with some area of ham radio?

List of members' areas of interest:

1. Technical questions, Classes
2. Help with Morse Code
3. License Examinations
4. Antenna and Station Planning
5. Antenna and Tower Erection
6. Buying Equipment (new or used)
7. Equipment Repair
8. Understanding and Using Your Gear
9. DXing and Contests
10. Club and ARRL Activities
11. Using Test Equipment
12. IRLP, Digital, SDR, APRS, WinLink, etc.
13. Basics of Electronics—how things work

Current as of January 2025

Name/Call Sign/Phone Number/Topic:

Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4, 5, 6, 7, 11)
Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1, 2, 4, 6, 8)
Dave W7UUU (253-820-0890 (2, 4, 6, 9)
Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10, 12)
Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6, 8, 10)
Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1, 3, 4, 12)
Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)
Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9, 10, 12)

Are you an RCT member with skills to offer?

Please let any officer know and we can add you!

Note: *Providers or users of the Elmer Board must be local to the Radio Club of Tacoma. This is a local club service for our local members only. Thank you!*

COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

THIS MONTH'S COOL OLD RIG IS ON LOAN from Roy, KA7NGT, from the picturesque little town near Mt. Rainier called Mineral, Washington. It's a radio that I can honestly say I had never heard of nor seen in all my years collecting and fiddling with old tube gear from the past.

It's called the "Weskit BN-1 Novice" from an obscure company in Kearney, Nebraska called Western Radio. It's certainly a cute little bugger—and very small—7 inches wide, 4.5 inches tall and deep. It's battery powered, and runs on a single 3A5 dual triode tube. It's not a transceiver as it might appear to be—but rather a transmitter and receiver in the same box.

Weskit BN-1
Photo by Dave W7UUU

Band coverage includes the 80 and 40 meter bands, CW only, with the receiver claiming coverage of a continuous 3.5 to 8 MHz range.

Battery requirements are fairly standard for battery powered tube radios: 90 to 180 volts for the 3A5 tube plate, and 1.5 volts for the filament. But that's the first place that things seem odd with the BN-1. Isn't a 3A5 a 3v filament tube (denoted by the 3)? Yes—it certainly is! In an apparent effort to limit the A-battery (filament) to a single 1.5v D-cell, when you switch from Transmit to Receive, the filament voltage actually stops lighting one half of the 3A5 filament to then light the other half!

The 3A5 uses a center-tapped filament, with Pin 1 being the filament section used in the receiver and Pin 7 being the filament for the transmitter section (Pin 4 being the grounded center-tap point). So every time you switch from transmit back to receive, there is a brief moment where the filament must light-up to "wake the receiver" back up again. Same thing in reverse for the transmitter when switching from send back to receive. The B+ (plate high voltage) is not switched. Only the common ground of the A and B batteries is broken when the power switch is turned off (part of the regeneration control pot).

The design is very simple—tunable regenerative receiver using one half of the 3A5 and a Pierce Oscillator on the transmitter half. But there's an inherent issue with using the single 3A5 tube for both functions… 45 volts is where the receiver seems most stable. Five 9-volt batteries in series works quite well with the receiver. 90-volts (ten 9-volt batteries) is just too much and the receiver becomes pretty useless with solid oscillation. However, even at 90 volts, the transmitter output is only 50 milliwatts, and at 45 volts is just a few milliwatts! At the ideal 180 volts on the transmitter plate of the 3A5 I was able to get about 1.5 watts RF output on 80 meters, but the receiver was utterly useless, locked in solid uncontrolled oscillation.

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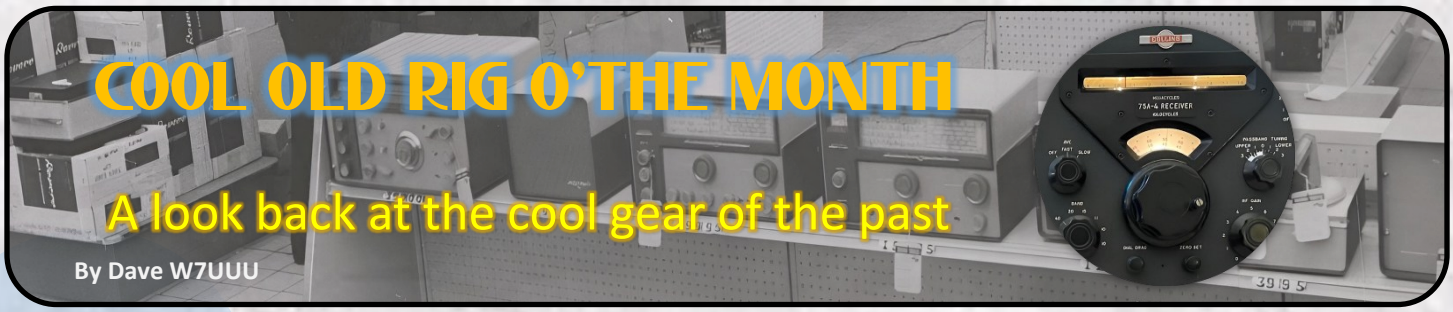

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Of course, with some fairly straightforward reengineering of the power supply (and going away from expensive 9-volt batteries!), it could easily be arranged to have 180 volts on the plate on the transmit side, and 45 on the plate of the receiver. But given this was a loaner unit, I didn't experiment with that.

In actual "on air" tests, I was able to receive over-the air signals on the receiver! In fact, it wasn't that hard at all. The tuning is horrid—no vernier dial—so it takes a feather touch to tune in a station. The jarring of the T/R switch I'm sure in an actual QSO could very easily knock the receiver off frequency and lose the signal.

In working with my ham friend Jim W7VK (who lives all of three miles north of me), I was able to tune in his 100-watt transceiver beautifully (there's a YouTube video link on the next page, right column). I had similar good results using the transmitter to tune in locally on my Collins 75A-4 receiver. The transmitter tune/load is pretty touchy and fussy as well. There is seemingly no "happy medium" where it will load my 80m 50-Ohm inverted vee and at the same time maintain oscillation in the receiver. Try as I might, I simply could not ever make a QSO work with Jim. But a big part of that I think was the mere milliwatts of power with the 45-volt B-battery, combined with poor coupling from the dismal output section of the BN-1. I didn't try an external antenna matcher.

The new Novice Class license was created by the FCC in 1951, and a lot of companies were eager to jump into the "Novice rig market" and I strongly suspect that's the case with the BN-1 Novice. Western Radio was a parts reseller, and very likely came up with the BN-1 to capture market share. It sold for $19.95 beginning in 1954 (that inflates to a mind-numbing $230 today). Given its "cute as a bug" styling and ads in the back pages of the radio magazines of the time, I'm sure a lot of newly hatched Novices eagerly sent off their hard-earned twenty bux—

Left: Rear view of the BN-1. Other chassis holes were for an optional AF stage tube and a headphone jack. You can see the single D-cell A battery, and 4 of the 5 9v batteries for the B+ supply.

Right: The pinout of the 3A5 tube. Note the center-tapped filament—pin 4 is ground, 1 is the XMTR filament and 7 is the RCVR filament section.

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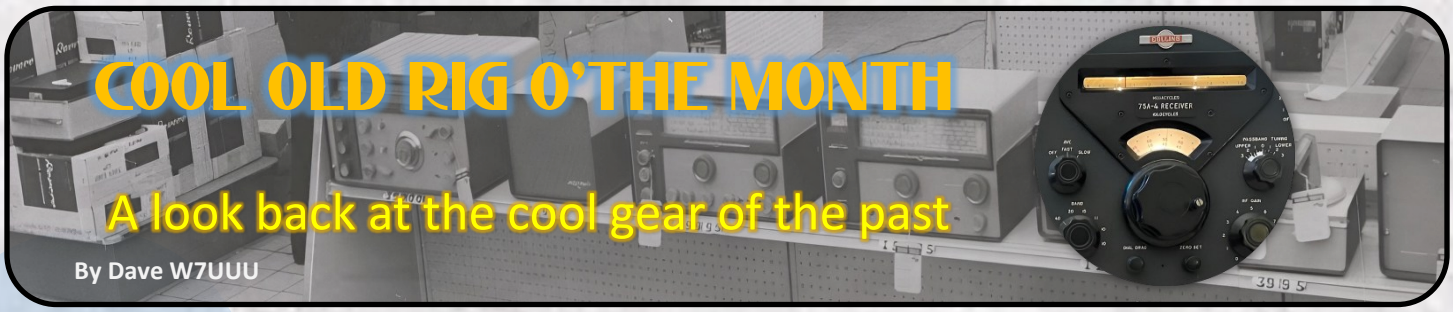


COOL OLD RIG O'THE MONTH

A look back at the cool gear of the past

By Dave W7UUU

only to be sorely disappointed at just how poorly this little rig performed, even if built perfectly.

While researching this article, I did find owners who claimed making dozens of contacts with a BN-1 so I suppose under ideal conditions it is possible. But outside of these one-off reports of usable operation, I hardly consider the Weskit BN-1 Novice to be anything you would ever want to rely on for making contacts.

My own first Novice rig was a kit-built Heathkit HW-7 3-band transceiver with direct-conversion receiver, and a mere 1.5 watts output on 40, 20, and 15 meters. It's considered a very sub-par transceiver in today's ham world. But by comparison to the Weskit BN-1 Novice, my HW-7 was more like an Icom IC-7300!

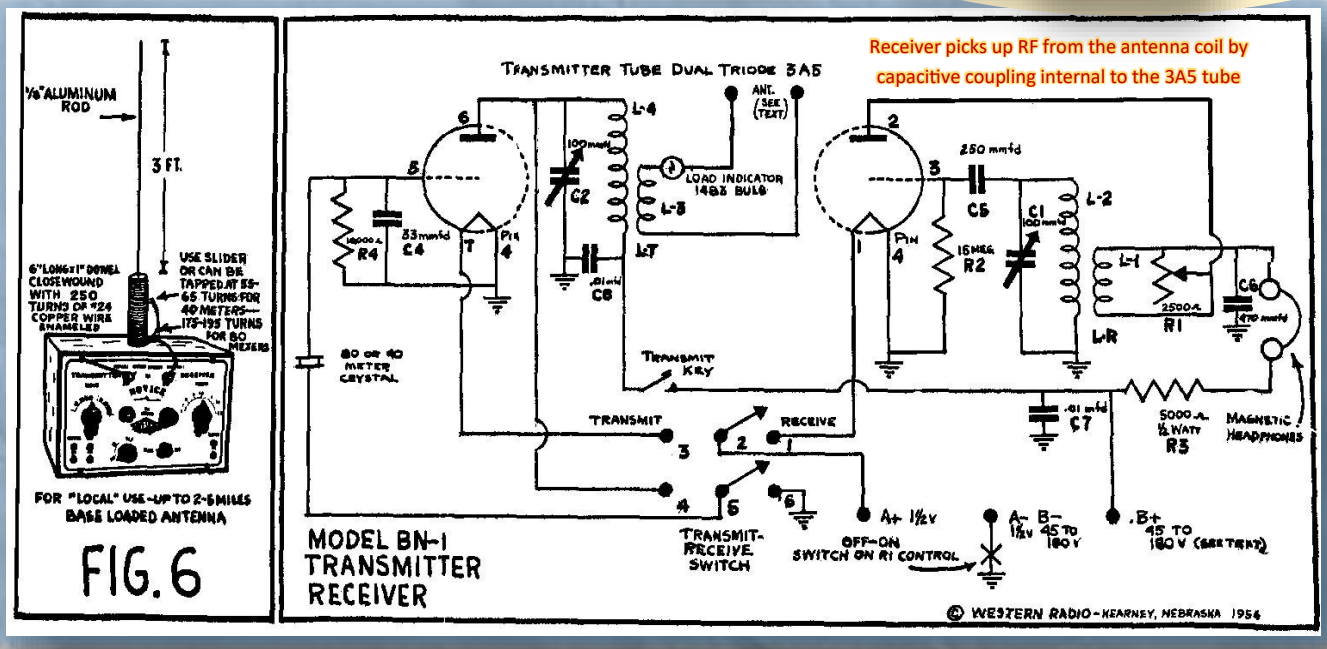
The BN-1 is certainly a fun collectible—I'd like to sincerely thank Roy KA7NGT for the 2-month loan to play with this little gem. I had a lot of fun! **Be sure to click the link to watch the YouTube video to see & hear it work!**

-Dave W7UUU

Above: the original location of Western Radio—2114 14th Avenue, Kearney, Nebraska.

Below: The original schematic of the BN-1. Carefully note the T/R switching and how the filament switching works. I have no idea why the crystal gets grounded on receive. Anyone know?

Note "FIG.6" - I can't begin to imagine how ineffective the BN-1 would be using a 3-foot base-loaded antenna whip!



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STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Cool Ham Radio Announcements

AMSAT-HB ANNOUNCEMENT: Starting this year, AMSAT-HB will award the "HB9RG Memorial Trophy" in honor of Dr. Hans Rudolf Lauber, who held the callsign HB9RG. Dr. Lauber was a true pioneer in VHF/UHF/SHF technology, and we are proud that AMSAT-HB can continue to carry forward his legacy by using his callsign.

The HB9RG Memorial Trophy will serve as a reminder of Dr. Lauber's positive contributions to the amateur radio community, and it will be awarded across various disciplines. The first discipline in this competition will coincide with a significant anniversary.

On March 10, 1965, HB9RG and DL6EZA successfully completed the first amateur radio QSO via satellite (OSCAR-III). To celebrate the 60th anniversary of this remarkable achievement, AMSAT-HB is hosting a two-week-long competition.

You can find the details and regulations for the competition on our website: [LINK]

This event will particularly appeal to those radio amateurs who are passionate about roving and DX. Additionally, on March 10, we will be active on various bands and operating modes under the callsign HB9RG. *-Michael Lipp, HB9SDF via QRZ.com*

THE YOUNG LADIES RADIO LEAGUE (YLRL) has announced the Memorial Scholarship program for 2025. The scholarship program is aimed at women Amateur Radio Operators studying radio, communications, electronics or Amateur Radio related arts and sciences. The Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) is an international non-profit organization of women Amateur Radio enthusiasts. It was founded in 1939 and is the longest running YL club in the world. The YLRL is sponsoring three memorial scholarships for 2025 ranging from $1,500 to $2,500. See this LINK for more information.

The YLRL believes that education in the fields of radio, communications, electronics and Amateur Related arts and sciences will play an important role in shaping the world's future. Through these Memorial Scholarships, YLRL hopes to encourage female students to learn more about Amateur Radio.

"**YLRL is committed to investing in women in Amateur Radio**, and we believe that every act of volunteerism through Amateur Radio — even a small one — helps turn the world into a better place," said Vicki Zumwalt, President of YLRL. "We hope that our scholarships will not only encourage students to learn more about science, technology, and engineering but also inspire them to take pride in being an Amateur Radio operator and to encourage others to do so as well."

To qualify, students must be female, have an Amateur Radio License, meet the requirements listed on the YLRL.net website and apply using the online application. Applications are due by April 30, 2025. Winners will be announced in July 2025.

Application link: https://YLRL.net/Scholarships

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

The More Things Change

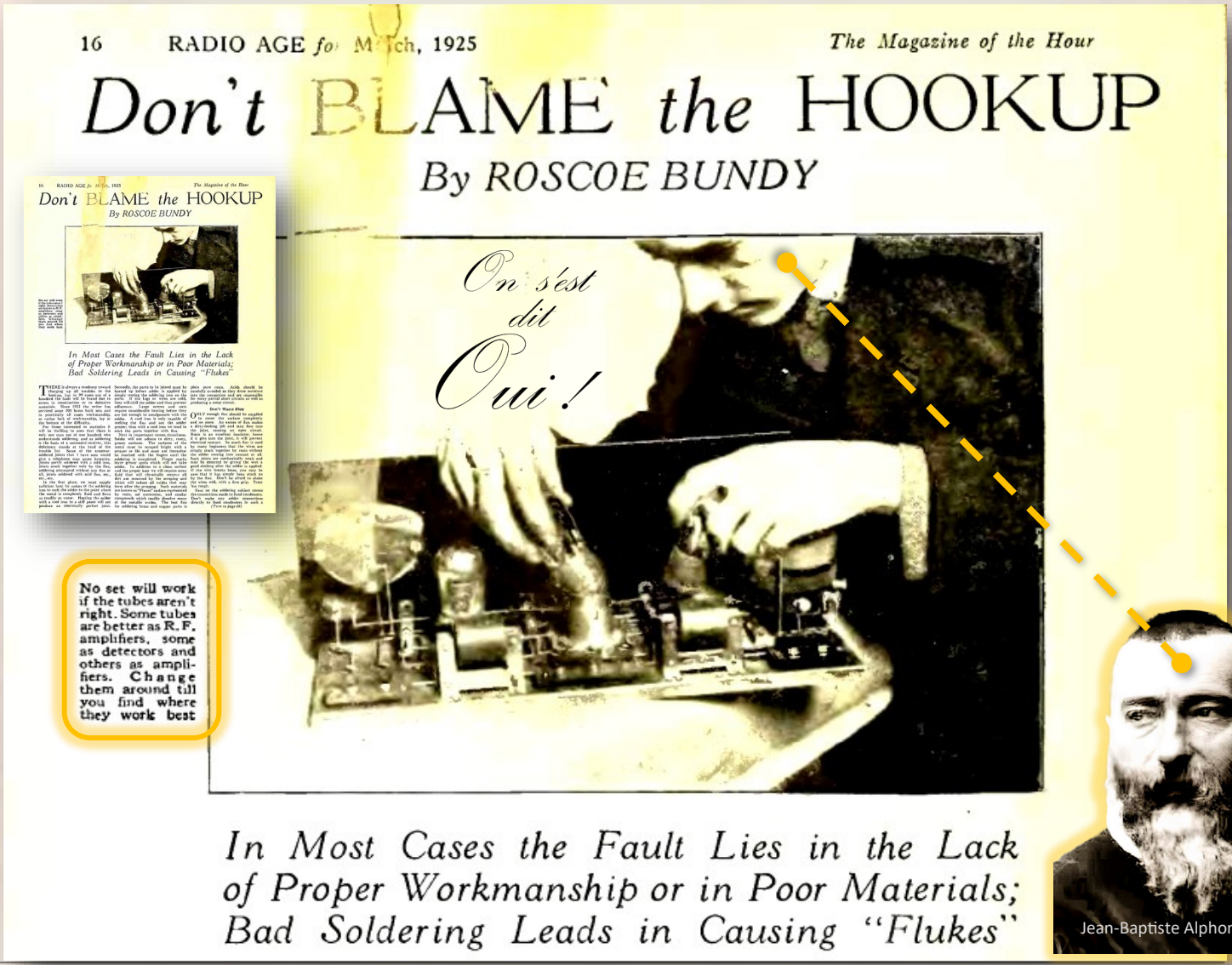
...just be careful swapping tubes around!

W7UUU

"Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose" French writer Jean-Baptiste Alphonese Karr (portrait, lower right) once opined—"The more things change the more they stay the same". Even when there appear to be significant changes happening (the passage of 100 years for instance), the underlying fundamental aspects of human nature often remain constant. Radio is not immune to this!

100 years ago this month Rosco Bundy wrote in Radio Age Magazine, "Don't Blame the HOOKUP" (the popular term for a schematic back then). "In most cases the fault lies in the lack of proper workmanship or in poor materials". That's so very true today. Note the photo caption, which reads: "No set will work if the tubes aren't right. Some tubes are better as R.F. amplifiers, some as detectors, and others as [A.F.] amplifiers. **Change them around till you find where they work the best"!** might have been practical advice in the days of 4-pin direct-heated triodes, but that would be *very bad* advice today! But all else in Mr. Bundy's article still holds true. To read the full article, follow this [LINK] and scroll to page 16.

-Dave W7UUU



16 RADIO AGE for March, 1925 The Magazine of the Hour

Don't BLAME the HOOKUP

By ROSCOE BUNDY

On s'est dit Oui!

No set will work if the tubes aren't right. Some tubes are better as R. F. amplifiers, some as detectors and others as amplifiers. Change them around till you find where they work best

In Most Cases the Fault Lies in the Lack of Proper Workmanship or in Poor Materials; Bad Soldering Leads in Causing "Flukes"

Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr

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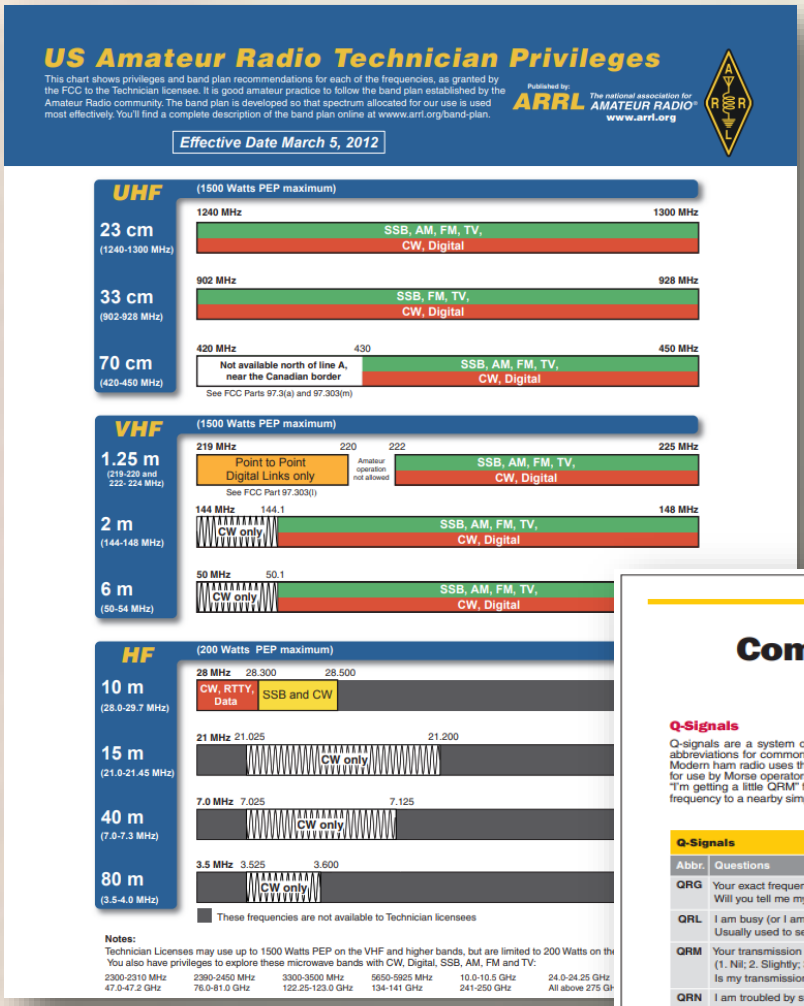
STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST:

Techs: Do you know your BANDS?

Make sure you're operating where you're supposed to! be

W7UUU



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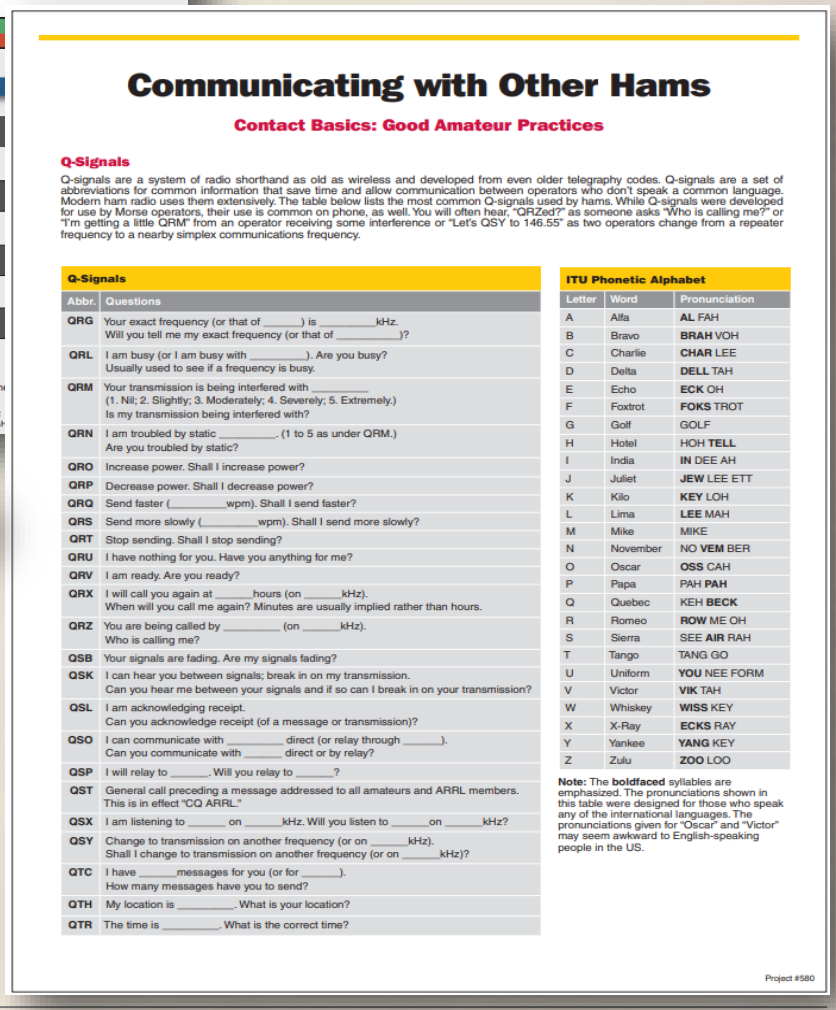
I RECENTLY BECAME AWARE of a technician class operator making contacts on 20m and 40m SSB. They gave the strong impression they simply "didn't realize" it wasn't OK! Well, it's NOT OK! It's a violation of the FCC rules. I strongly urge all technician-class operators who see this to click the image to the left or below and download this chart. Print it out in color (at home or at Staples, etc.) and pin it up where you operate and make sure you are always complying with the rules! ■ *-editor*



Communicating with Other Hams

Contact Basics: Good Amateur Practices

Q-Signals

Q-signals are a system of radio shorthand as old as wireless and developed from even older telegraphy codes. Q-signals are a set of abbreviations for common information that save time and allow communication between operators who don't speak a common language. Modern ham radio uses them extensively. The table below lists the most common Q-signals used by hams. While Q-signals were developed for use by Morse operators, their use is common on phone, as well. You will often hear, "QRZed?" as someone asks "Who is calling me?" or "I'm getting a little QRM" from an operator receiving some interference or "Let's QSY to 146.55" as two operators change from a repeater frequency to a nearby simplex communications frequency.

Q-Signals

Abbr.	Questions
QRG	Your exact frequency (or that of _____) is _____kHz. Will you tell me my exact frequency (or that of _____)?
QRL	I am busy (or I am busy with _____). Are you busy? Usually used to see if a frequency is busy.
QRM	Your transmission is being interfered with _____ (1. Nil; 2. Slightly; 3. Moderately; 4. Severely; 5. Extremely.) Is my transmission being interfered with?
QRN	I am troubled by static _____. (1 to 5 as under QRM.) Are you troubled by static?
QRO	Increase power. Shall I increase power?
QRP	Decrease power. Shall I decrease power?
QRQ	Send faster (_____wpm). Shall I send faster?
QRS	Send more slowly (_____wpm). Shall I send more slowly?
QRT	Stop sending. Shall I stop sending?
QRU	I have nothing for you. Have you anything for me?
QRV	I am ready. Are you ready?
QRX	I will call you again at _____hours (on _____kHz). When will you call me again? Minutes are usually implied rather than hours.
QRZ	You are being called by _____ (on _____kHz). Who is calling me?
QSB	Your signals are fading. Are my signals fading?
QSK	I can hear you between signals; break in on my transmission. Can you hear me between your signals and if so can I break in on your transmission?
QSL	I am acknowledging receipt. Can you acknowledge receipt (of a message or transmission)?
QSO	I can communicate with _____ direct (or relay through _____). Can you communicate with _____ direct or by relay?
QSP	I will relay to _____. Will you relay to _____?
QST	General call preceding a message addressed to all amateurs and ARRL members. This is in effect "CQ ARRL."
QSX	I am listening to _____ on _____kHz. Will you listen to _____on _____kHz?
QSY	Change to transmission on another frequency (or on _____kHz). Shall I change to transmission on another frequency (or on _____kHz)?
QTC	I have _____messages for you (or for _____). How many messages have you to send?
QTH	My location is _____. What is your location?
QTR	The time is _____. What is the correct time?

ITU Phonetic Alphabet

Letter	Word	Pronunciation
A	Alfa	**AL** FAH
B	Bravo	**BRAH** VOH
C	Charlie	**CHAR** LEE
D	Delta	**DELL** TAH
E	Echo	**ECK** OH
F	Foxtrot	**FOKS** TROT
G	Golf	GOLF
H	Hotel	HOH **TELL**
I	India	**IN** DEE AH
J	Juliet	**JEW** LEE ETT
K	Kilo	**KEY** LOH
L	Lima	**LEE** MAH
M	Mike	MIKE
N	November	NO **VEM** BER
O	Oscar	**OSS** CAH
P	Papa	PAH **PAH**
Q	Quebec	KEH **BECK**
R	Romeo	**ROW** ME OH
S	Sierra	SEE **AIR** RAH
T	Tango	TANG GO
U	Uniform	**YOU** NEE FORM
V	Victor	**VIK** TAH
W	Whiskey	**WISS** KEY
X	X-Ray	**ECKS** RAY
Y	Yankee	**YANG** KEY
Z	Zulu	**ZOO** LOO

Note: The **boldfaced** syllables are emphasized. The pronunciations shown in this table were designed for those who speak any of the international languages. The pronunciations given for "Oscar" and "Victor" may seem awkward to English-speaking people in the US.

Project #580

CLICK HERE

AS AN ADDED BONUS: many new hams find themselves in the world of HF SSB voice operation, hearing phonetic letters for call signs for the first time that may not only be a mystery but a downright stressor as a beginner. The ITU phonetic alphabet to the right can be taped up in your shack to help guide you. The Q-Signals? Probably not so much unless you take up CW. Sure, some hams say "QSL" on SSB (drives some hams nuts!) but most of these you won't hear on Phone modes. ■ *-editor*

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THE WAY BACK PHOTO BOOTH

Highlighted photos from the club's past

Researched & Compiled by the Dave W7UUU

Archive Photo

Ca. 1970 W7DK Hamfair—President Denny Reanier W7UBA (center with hat) readies the raffle prize… a brand spankin' new Ten-Tec Power-Mite PM-3 QRP transceiver (the PM-3 covered 40/80 or 40/20 … cannot be discerned in this photo which this exact model this is). Club Secretary Bob Weightman WA7IPR looks over his shoulder. The PM-3 (and PM-3A) was a two-band QRP CW QRP transceiver covering either 40 and 20, or 80 and 40 meter ham bands (but both models had all three bands in the tuning dial despite only two working, depending on model). The receiver was a direct conversion (Ten-Tec called it a "Syncrodyne"). The transmitter was listed at 5-watts input which would be around 2.5 to 3 watts actual RF output. The Power-Mite series of QRP rigs were among the first offerings from the company—the one in this photo appears brand new, never removed from the plastic and would have been a current model at the time of this photo. Selling price was $69.95 when new in 1970 which would be about $560 today making this a fairly high-end QRP rig of its time and a pretty nice prize to win in the raffle that day!

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MIGHTY DK! QSO REPORT

Reporting all the HF QSO action from the club

EACH MONTH in the Bark, the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. Saturday Open House, especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you. It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of The Mighty DK to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the Bark! (Don't forget to *enter your call sign as the operator* into our logging program.) ■ *-editor*

Clubhouse QSOs during this period:

NAME	CALL	QSOs
Mike	W7MKE	33
Jessica	KK7VHH	12
David	AC7KP	8
Julie	W7JUL	3
-	-	-
-	-	-

Above: HF Room Flex 6600 & Mercury III

Below: HF Room Icom IC-7610 & KPA-500

Photos this page provided by Dave W7UUU

THE FUNNY PAPERS

Ham Humor for Humorous Hams

HOW'S DX?

DXpeditions and Notable DX operations

WEB

NG3K Upcoming DXpedition Calendar

March						
2025 Mar01	2025 Mar01	Antigua & Barbuda	V26MN	DF8AN	TDDX 20241031	By DF8AN; 80-6m, incl 60m; CW + digital, perhaps SSB
ARRL International DX Contest, SSB (Mar 1-2, 2025) Check here for pericontest activity too.						
2025 Mar01	2025 Mar09	Montserrat	VP2MMN	DF8AN	TDDX 20241031	By DF8AN; 80-6m, incl 60m; CW + digital, perhaps SSB
2025 Mar04	2025 Mar12	Cocos Keeling	VK9CU	LoTW	DL2AWG 20240911	By DL2AWG DF4GV DL2AMD DJ9RR VK6SJ VK6CQ:; HF; CW SSB FT8 RTTY; 500w; 3 stations, 24/7; QSL via DL2AWG (LoTW after 6 months)
2025 Mar09	2025 Mar10	Antigua & Barbuda	V26MN	DF8AN	TDDX 20241031	By DF8AN; 80-6m, incl 60m; CW + digital, perhaps SSB
2025 Mar09	2025 Apr05	Sint Maarten	PJ7AA	LoTW	TDDX 20240725	By AA9A; 40-6m; CW FT8 FT4; QSL via AA9A
2025 Mar10	2025 Mar11	St Martin	FS	DF8AN	TDDX 20241031	By DF8AN; 80-6m, incl 60m; CW + digital, perhaps SSB
2025 Mar10	2025 Mar25	Andaman Is	VU4X	M0URX	DXW.Net 20240723	By ON4AMX ON4HIL ON5UR ON5RA ON5TN ON6CC ON7FT ON7USB ON7RU ON8AZ PA9M PA3EWP; HF; CW SSB + digital; 6 stations
2025 Mar12	2025 Mar24	Jamaica	6Y7EI	M0OXO	TDDX 20241206	By DJ9RR EI2II EI2JD EI4GZB EI4HH EI4L EI5GM EI6FM EI8JB EI3IXB EI9HQ OZ1IKY; 160-6m
2025 Mar17	2025 Mar31	Grenada	J38XB	VE2XB Direct	DXW.Net 20250103	By VE2XB fm IOTA NA-024; 160-10m; SSB, some CW
2025 Mar18	2025 Apr01	Micronesia	V6WG	LoTW	TDDX 20241216	By WE9G fm Kosrae I (IOTA OC-059); 80-6m, perhaps 160m; mainly FT8 FT4, somoe SSB CW; QSL via WE9G (B/d)
2025 Mar24	2025 Apr05	Rodrigues I	3B9DJ	LoTW	DXW.Net 20240919	By OK6DJ OK1CRM OK2ZA; 160-10m; CW SSB FT8; QSL via OK6DJ
2025 Mar24	2025 Mar31	Cyprus SBA	ZC4MK	G0KOM	DXW.Net 20241221	By G0KOM; QRV for CQ WPX SSB

Click anywhere on the table above to visit Bill's site directly—the hyperlinks will be active there.

Courtesy Bill Feidt, NG3K
used with permission

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ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL TOOLS IN ANY HAM shop for hams who do repairs is a "desoldering tool". There are many types—some are mechanical suction devices: melt the solder you want to remove, then quickly cock the spring of the tool, place it on the molten solder blob, and "hit the button"! The solder sucking device will draw the molten solder inside the tube, where it can be ejected and ready to go for the next action.

Some such devices are simple plastic, others are more sophisticated with metal fittings for greater durability. Most of these basic solder-removal tools do an adequate job. Coupled with using "solder wick" products that use a woven copper braid impregnated with solder flux, the one-off solder removal operation can be completed in just about all cases. In fact, most of my own desoldering operations use these basic tools.

But for folks desoldering boards in more complex or modern rigs like modern transceivers, where speed is essential; or where many desoldering operations must be done quickly and cleanly, the spring-loaded tools and "solder wick" methods won't be adequate.

For such applications, there is nothing better than a portable desoldering tool with precise temperature control (only enough heat to melt the solder but not damage the PC board), and an automated suction system that works continuously.

Be forewarned: such tools are not cheap. But it's truly a "you get what you pay for" situation. The industry standard for such a tool is the Hakko FR-301 series of desoldering tools, pictured in this article. This precision tool is really amazing in its operation – nearly perfect removal of solder in an instant. If purchased as a full kit, it comes with several nozzles for different size operations. The removed solder is drawn into a holding chamber that can then eject the cooled solder once the tube fills.

This tool is capable of desoldering point after point in rapid succession—such as when desoldering an integrated circuit, or when stripping a PC board of all parts (such as when "re-kitting" an old rig like a Heathkit HW-16 or similar old rig with delicate phenolic board materials).

The decision to purchase a tool like this will depend on how frequently you need to do this sort of work, and the precision you will require. When I bought mine (2016) it was $269 on Amazon. These days they are over $330 but very much well worth it. Granted, mine was lost in my 2020 fire. But I do hope to acquire another down the road. As pure coincidence, my friend Rich KR7W just today reported that he found this same model at a ham fest for only $80 and he immediately snatched it up! Way to go Rich—I hope to have the same luck one day soon.

-Dave W7UUU

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

RADIO ADS FROM 100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH

W7UUU

IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY RADIO TECHNOLOGY WAS advancing rapidly but manufacturers faced a major problem: materials. Early radio components relied mostly on wood, metal or fragile materials like hard rubber and shellac compounds of one kind or another… all of which had drawbacks.

But in 1907, a Belgian chemist working in the United States named Leo Baekeland invented a game-changer for radio technology. It was a lightweight, durable, heat-resistant and highly insulating synthetic plastic he called Bakelite, a name he derived from his own surname.

Most radio collectors think of Bakelite for the myriad of AM radio cabinets that flooded the market in the 1930s and 40s. But the new material was found all over inside just about any radio you can name, including transmitters and receivers built by the early radio manufacturers as well as amateurs. Tube sockets, tube bases, standoff insulators, vernier dials, and panel knobs (such as those featured here, from my own junkbox collection of knobs) were all very frequently made of Bakelite. The new plastic also played a key role in high-voltage insulation so it found its way into coil forms for transmitters and receivers, all the way to outdoor electrical insulators used by the power utilities.

By the 1950s however, better plastics came along and Bakelite began to fade into the past. Many of those old table radios from the late 1930s and early 1940s fetch astronomical prices for the art-deco styling that Bakelite afforded manufacturers. And to this day, hams seek out Bakelite coil forms and panel knobs from boxes and bins at hamfests to build their homebrew projects just like hams did a century ago. *-Dave W7UUU*

Leo Baekeland, inventor

Typical Bakelite knobs from the 1920s into 1930s era Photos by Dave W7UUU

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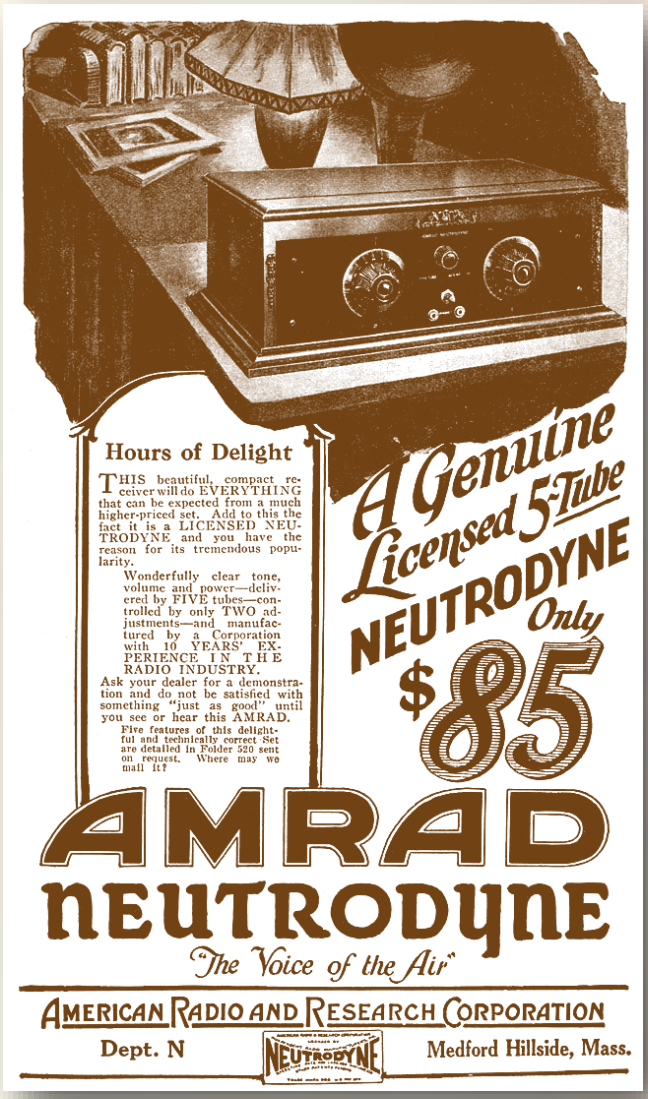
THE WORLD OF RADIO IN THE 1920s WAS VERY DIFFERENT than it is today. In 1925, the hobby of radio included all aspects of radio: long-wave, medium wave, and shortwave. Millions of people around the world took up the hobby in the same sense millions took up the internet in 1996—it was the new thing in technology and brought the world closer in terms of information and entertainment. The variations in technology from one sort of radio device to another were ranked and compared in much the same way as computers were in the 1990s (and still to a lesser degree today): the type of receiving tech—crystal radio, regenerative, superheterodyne, autodyne, Tuned Radio Frequency (TRF) and the closely related Neutrodyne as featured in this ad from March, 1925.

This was much like customers comparing early PC chip types such as 286, 386, and 486—rankings of real and perceived "power" of the circuit before making a purchase. The same held true for the number of tubes—early on, radio ads touting more tubes suggested more tubes was better as a result. In spring of 1925 the Scott Transformer company sold the Super-9 Portable with nine tubes. But soon, as tubes became more efficient and more powerful, *fewer* tubes became a selling point, "Our radio uses new tubes so powerful it only needs *five* of them instead of the competitors' nine".

Many of the technologies of radio in the 1920s were held under very strict licensing requirements—RCA being the most notorious due to their buying up patents as fast as the innovators were granted them. It was very common to see ads such as the one on the right from the American Radio and Research Corporation, or AMRAD. An early giant in radio design and manufacturing, AMRAD was keen to tell buyers their products used a "genuine licensed Neutrodyne" circuit (a patented variation of the TRF receiver which used circuitry to "neutralize" squealing oscillations common in other TRF designs of the day).

The Neutrodyne was developed by Harold Wheeler, an engineer who worked at the Stevens Institute of Technology, later patented by Louis Hazeltine who ran the lab where Wheeler worked—so Hazeltine is usually given credit.

By 1927, more than ten million Neutrodyne receivers were sold



to consumers in North America, making it one of the most popular radio circuit designs of the 1920s. It held reign for a number of years until the vastly superior Superheterodyne receiver design took over and remains the standard to this day for virtually all commercially-sold analog radios of all types.

Be watching for next month's Logger's Bark—we will feature an article about the AMRAD corporation and in particular, a profile of Eunice Randall, an employee of AMRAD and one of the early pioneers in Amateur Radio with the call sign 1CDP.

-Dave W7UUU

Plan Now: Upcoming POTA!

By BJ KO7T

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA POTA 2025 Schedule

This past year, the club hosted 11 POTA activations at 7 different parks, and we have BIG plans for 2025!

The Club's POTA Chairman, BJ KO7T, is always looking ahead for fun new parks in the state to activate. It's always a great way for members to get involved with amateur radio while enjoying the great outdoors here in Washington State!

Here's the upcoming schedule:

PARK: Dash Point State Park
DATE: March 16, 2025
TIMES: 10 AM PDT

PARK: Lake Sammamish State Park
DATE: April 20, 2025
TIMES: 10:00 AM PDT

PARK: Nolte State Park
DATE: May 18, 2025
TIMES: 10:00 AM PDT

PARK: Illahee state Park
DATE: June 15, 2025
TIMES: 10:00 AM PDT

PARK: Saint Edward State Park
DATE: July 20th
TIMES: 10:00 AM PDT

Everyone is invited to come to our POTA activation events. It's a great opportunity to learn about different antenna types, setting up and tuning antennas with loading coils and/or a counter-poise, learn about different digital modes, and other topics related to portable operations. We usually have 3 to 5 stations set up running many modes on multiple bands. We encourage prospective hams to get on the air, and those with Technician licenses to operate on different bands with a control operator. For club members with a General license, we even have a portable POTA kit that is available to check out from the club the Saturday prior to our club activations. Please see or email BJ Rollison (KO7T) for more information.

-BJ KO7T

BJ KO7T operating at a recent POTA activation

POTA WINTER "SUPPORT YOUR PARK DAY"

January 19th brought clear skies and sunshine at Nolte State Park (near Enumclaw, WA), but the brisk 30-degree temperatures reminded us why it's called ***Winter*** Field Day! Despite the chill, spirits were high, and we managed a successful activation with four operating stations and a turnout of seven enthusiastic participants—far exceeding expectations.

Stations and Operators:

Dave Stillwell AC7KP set up his Icom IC-705 paired with a Hardrock 50 amplifier and a Buddistick antenna. He focused on SSB contacts 20-meters.

Leah Ives K7IPT brought her Elecraft KX2 and a random wire antenna, and had some great results working CW on 40 meters.

Dave Hanson KK7IPT operated with a Yaesu FT-991 and also had a random wire antenna, making contacts on 15 SSB.

I brought my trusty Icom IC-705, paired with a TX-500 amplifier and a Buddistick antenna. Although I initially planned to use my Microsoft Surface for logging, the cold weather made it uncooperative. Thankfully, my backup computer saved the day!

Our End Results:

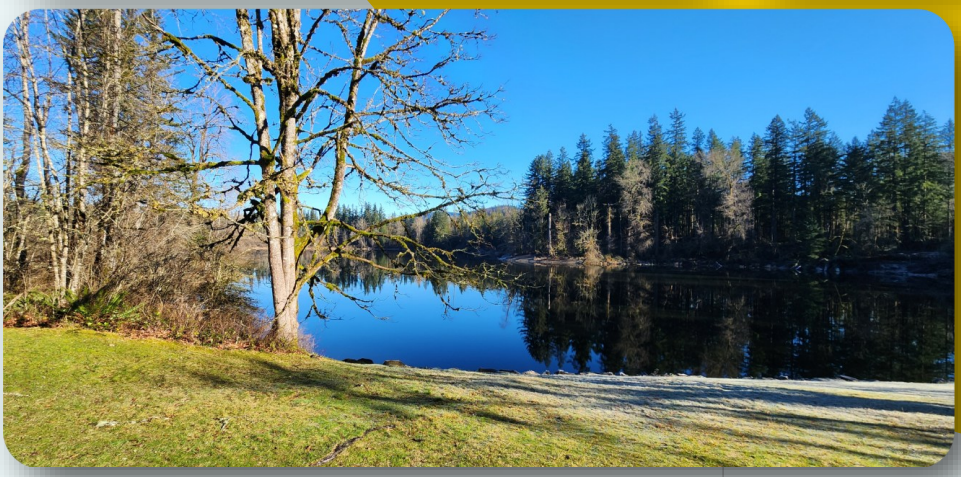
The event ran smoothly, with the only hiccup being my computer tech trouble. The group together made 39 contacts across multiple bands, marking the activation as a success. It was great to see such a strong turnout, especially given the frosty conditions.

There are always new POTA and field activities, and I'm crossing my fingers for slightly warmer weather. Stay tuned to the W7DK website for details of upcoming events, as well as here in *The Bark.*

Here's to more fun and successful activations ahead!

-Warren NG7G

Frigid Sunday morning, Nolte State Park.
Photo: John N7TES



All photos this page provided by
Julie W7JUL

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WINTER FIELD DAY

By Dave W7UUU

ON JANUARY 25th & 26th THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA participated in Winter Field Day (WFD). For those not familiar, this event is not affiliated with the ARRL like the June Field Day event. It's organized by the Winter Field Day Organization.

First conceived in June 2006, Charles Drabham N5PVL asked if the Society for the Preservation of Amateur Radio (SPAR) would be interested in starting up a new event for Winter Field Day activities. Plans progressed, and on January 13 & 14, 2007 the first Winter Field Day official event was held. Walt Fair W5ALT and Charlie Young KY5U (SK) were early significant contributors in the effort to grow both SPAR as well as WFD.

What differentiates WFD from ARRL Field Day is the idea that emergencies don't always happen on beautiful June days. Since ARRL Field Day has always been billed as partly an emergency preparedness exercise, the founders of WFD thought that practicing in less-than-ideal conditions might add to the skillset of all who participated.

Since its beginning, Winter Field Day has grown every year, garnering more participants. For the January 2025 event, 1394 stations were registered to participate in the U.S., EU, South America, the Caribbean, and Asia. The rules are roughly similar to those of ARRL Field Day but with greatly expanded variations of Objectives & Multipliers.

For those interested, you can read all about Winter Field Day by following this [LINK].

-Dave W7UUU

WFD PHOTOS by Mike W7MKE

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RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA WINTER FIELD DAY 2025—January 25-26

By Mike W7MKE

The Radio Club of Tacoma once again participated in Winter Field Day this year. Unlike last year, when we combined the event with a Parks on the Air (POTA) activation and camped in cabins at a state park, this time we operated from the clubhouse as a **2i** station (two transceivers, indoor operation i.e., the W7DK Clubhouse).

As is often the case with our club, we used the contest as a training opportunity for new operators and those unfamiliar with contesting. Many hams know that the bands, particularly the phone portions, are often underutilized outside of contests. At our weekly Thursday night open house, members can learn operating skills, but making phone contacts often requires calling into various nets just to log a QSO.

Training and First Time Operators:

This year, fourteen club members took part in the event, including several first-time contesters and two new hams making their first-ever HF contacts:

- New contest operators: Julie W7JUL, Scott KF7ZFL, and Brad KK7YQC
- First-ever HF contacts: Elliot KK7YTU and Chris KI7ILQ

A special shoutout goes to Julie W7JUL, who started as a new contester with some experience from our Thursday night sessions. Early Saturday morning, she was a bit hesitant as she got comfortable logging call signs, class, and section information. But by Saturday afternoon and again on Sunday, she had mastered the Flex radio and N3FJP logging software, even handling minor pileups like a pro.

For her outstanding improvement, Julie earns the title of **"Most Improved Operator"** for January 2025. Congratulations, Julie!

In total, W7DK made 401 QSOs, 361 of which were on SSB and another 40 on CW. Below is the breakdown of contacts by mode. And has so often been the case lately during this sunspot peak, 10-meters was our most productive band by a fair margin.

QSOs	Band	Mode
123	10M	SSB
93	20M	SSB
69	15M	SSB
59	40M	SSB
26	80M	CW
17	80M	SSB
12	15M	CW
2	40M	CW

And huge kudos to our 14 intrepid operators for making all of this happen. Everyone had a great time—and we look forward to an even better operation next year in the 2026 Winter Field Day.

-Mike W7MKE

Call Sign	Name
AC7KP	David
K7PIA	Phil
KF7ZFL	Scott
KG7FZH	Becky
KI7ILQ	Chris
KK7QND	Nathan
KK7YQC	Brad
KK7YTU	Elliot
N7TES	John
W7JUL	Julie
W7MKE	Mike
W7XTZ	Mike
W8NGS	Jeff
WB4SPB	Randy

WINTERFEST 2025
MINERAL, WASHINGTON

By Dave W7UUU

WINTERFEST IN MINERAL WASHINGTON is a little-advertised hamfest sponsored by the local hams in Mineral that takes place in late January. It's always a beautiful drive out to the Mount Rainier area past Eatonville, on the shores of crystal-clear Mineral Lake. You can always count on finding the true gems of the Boat Anchor age as well as parts and pieces for most any project you can think of. But if you don't search out the few places it's announced every year, you'll miss it! *-Dave W7UUU*

Winterfest location

All photos by Dave W7UUU

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STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!

W7UUU

Hidden Word Contest

THIS MONTH'S HIDDEN WORD IS: **kerchunk**

"Kerchunking" an FM repeater—transmitting briefly without identifying—is widely considered bad practice in amateur radio. It's disruptive, as it activates the repeater unnecessarily, and can even time-out some repeaters if done repeatedly. Worse, it violates FCC rules requiring operators to identify themselves with their call sign. Repeated kerchunking wastes resources and irritates other users monitoring the frequency. Instead, always identify yourself, even during quick tests. This ensures compliance with the rules, shows respect for shared airwaves, and maintains the cooperative spirit of amateur radio. Remember: good operating habits reflect positively on you and the amateur community as a whole! ■ *-editor*

Hidden Object Contest

IF YOU ACTUALLY READ THE DECEMBER BARK, you might remember that the first noise reduction device for radio receivers was in fact a spark plug! The Champion "resistor spark plug" along with later developments by the Champion Spark Plug company of Toledo, Ohio, were instrumental in reducing noise in car radios beginning in 1930.

Hidden somewhere in this issue is a picture of a Champion sparkplug like the one shown here. Be the first to tell me the page, and you will win some cool stickers! Of course, as with the hidden word, this page does not count!

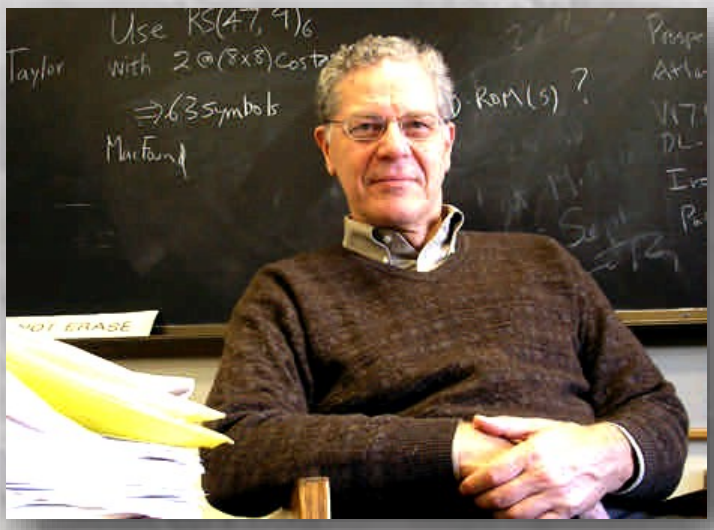
-Dave W7UUU

Famous Ham March Birdays

LOVE IT OR HATE IT, THE JT / FT MODES HAVE, IN JUST a few years, become the most popular modes in amateur radio today. Joe Taylor, K1JT, is the inventor of WSPR, JT65, JT9, and was co-creator of FT8 and FT4 (Steve Franke K9AM being the "F", Taylor being the "T" in FT8). Taylor is a renowned astrophysicist and Nobel Prize Laureate in Physics for his discovery with Russel Alan Hulse of a "new type of pulsar, a discovery that has opened up new possibilities for the study of gravitation". His birthday is March 29, 1941.

It was Joe's amateur radio involvement as a teenager that ultimately led him to the field of radio astronomy. In April 2010, he mounted an expedition to the Arecibo Radio Telescope in Puerto Rico to conduct Moonbounce (EME) with hams around the world using SSB, CW, and new digital modes (JT65) that he was developing. The rest they say is history.

-Dave W7UUU



Joe Taylor K1JT—inventor of WSPR, JT65, JT9, and cocreator of FT4 and FT8 (along with Steve Franke K9AM—the "F" in FT8

STRAY TOPICS OF INTEREST

Fun stuff for Hams to read!

W7UUU

Survey Center!

What are your current actively-in-use tube gear preferences? Choose ALL that apply:

Edit

* I have at least one tube transmitter or transceiver that I use (includes hybrids)	59 vote(s)	50.4%
* I have at least one tube receiver that I use	38 vote(s)	32.5%
I ONLY use tube ham gear in my primary station (not counting modern HTs, mobiles, etc.)	6 vote(s)	5.1%
I used to own and use tube gear but it's all sold and I won't be getting more	20 vote(s)	17.1%
I actively use tube gear (transmitters, receivers, test gear, etc.) that I built myself	15 vote(s)	12.8%
I only use tube gear on my test bench - not for my main station	1 vote(s)	0.9%
I have never owned tube gear but might try it someday	10 vote(s)	8.5%
I have never owned tube gear and will never own tube gear	8 vote(s)	6.8%
* I build or buy small 1-3 tube QRP homebrew tube transmitters or regen receivers, keyers,etc.	10 vote(s)	8.5%
None of these answers fits my situation - read my comments below	5 vote(s)	4.3%

Multiple votes are allowed. Change Your Vote

JUST ANOTHER **NON**-SCIENTIFIC POLL OF QRZ

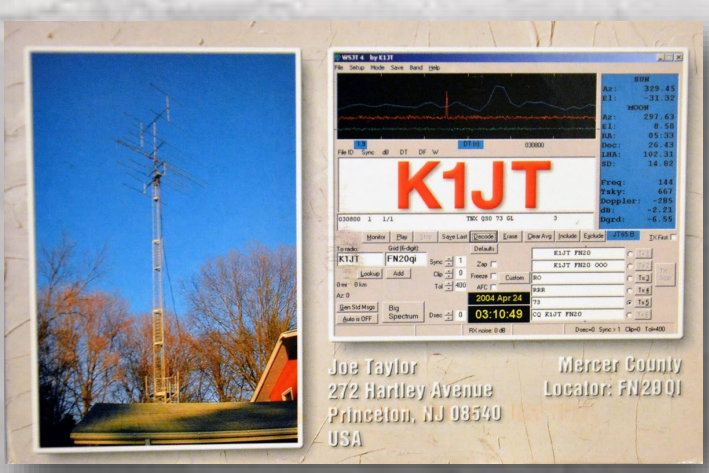
users who bothered to respond about how many of those hams today still use tube gear in their shacks. My answers have the asterisks * on them … But interesting to me that just over 50% of the re-spondents have at least one tube transmitter or transceiver in their shack. Note that this *very* unsci-entific survey did NOT include amplifiers, as many modern amps today still use tubes. Just for fun.

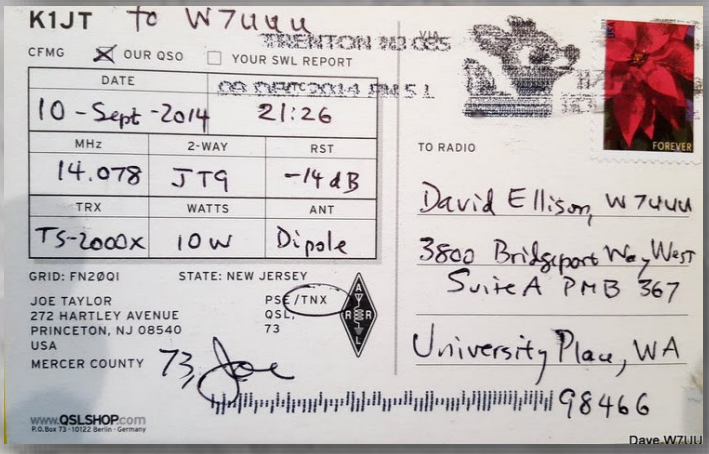
-Dave W7UUU

QSL Card of the Month

IN KEEPING WITH THIS MONTH'S FAMOUS HAM birthday of Joe Taylor K1JT, creator of all the JT modes including FT8, and given no other members have submitted any "QSL of the Month", I thought it would be a great time to post my own QSL from Joe Taylor himself… Nobel Prize winner in physics and inventor of WSPR, JT65, JT9, and co-inventor of FT8. It's one of my favorite QSL cards I've received.

-Dave W7UUU





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This month's "Shack of the Month" comes from one of the photo archive binders in the club library, and features Craig Larsen WA7HTN, RCT #706. I stumbled across this photo not too long ago while doing club research. It put a smile on my face because I knew Craig, and I vividly remember his fabulous Drake shack. Craig worked at C&G Electronics at the time, and I had just passed my Novice CW test at C&G in December 1974. I was 13 years old. A few days later I took my Novice written test right here in Craig's shack! I so clearly remember sitting at that desk and drooling over that setup. Craig stepped away for a moment and I reached up and pulled the mic boom down, pretending to operate the radio. At that moment Craig came back in the room, and was *furious!* "*Never* go into someone's shack and start adjusting things!". Boy did I learn that lesson—and to this day I NEVER touch stuff in another ham's shack unless invited to do so. If anyone reading this knows Craig and has contact, please let me know—I'd love to meet up with him again after all these years. *-Dave W7UUU*

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about

W7UUU

Kenwood TM-D750A

AT THE JUST CONCLUDED (as of this writing) Hamcation 2025 (February 7-9 in Orlando, Florida) Kenwood unveiled its latest innovation in amateur radio technology: the TM-D750A, a tri-band mobile transceiver that they say is "the ultimate tribander, driving connectivity to new heights in mobile communications" (their quote not my words!). Although not yet available for purchase, the TM-D750A has definitely generated some significant excitement in the ham world, as evidenced by lots of posts on eHam and QRZ.

Key Features of the TM-D750A

The TM-D750A is designed to operate across three bands: 144 MHz (2 meters), 220 MHz (1.25 meters), and 430 MHz (70 centimeters). Did you notice what I just typed there? **220 MHz, 1.25 Meters?** That's an *amazing* detail. That band is only available in IARU Region 2 (the Americas) - *not* in Japan or the EU. That's the reason we seldom see rigs offering that band come on the market here in the U.S. because it's just one of three markets. That's huge, in my opinion. This tri-band capability provides operators with enhanced flexibility and a broader range of communication options, with the third band being something we very seldom see in modern "Big Three" radio offerings (Kenwood, Yaesu, Icom).

Another of the standout features of the TM-D750A is its compliance with the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS) protocol.

The radio also offers a built-in Wireless LAN, to enable direct and straightforward access to the D-STAR network without the need for external devices! This integration simplifies digital voice and data comms a LOT and shrinks the gear needed to do these things.

The transceiver also boasts a built-in KISS TNC, supporting APRS with a standalone digipeater function. When connected to a PC, you get 1200-9600 bps packet communication and iGate operation—and I'll freely admit I'm not sure what that means exactly these days in a modern radio like this.

The TM-D750A has a detachable remote-operation panel equipped with a built-in speaker, providing flexibility in installation and use. There's a 3.45-inch TFT color LCD with high brightness and wide viewing angles. In a few reviews of hams at Hamcation, it's being reported as a "really amazing screen".

For connectivity, the transceiver includes a USB-C port and a MicroSD card slot, located on the remote head and RF deck, respectively. These interfaces just give us more options for "ins and outs". I like that.

Additionally, the TM-D750A comes with built-in GPS featuring a patch antenna, facilitating location tracking and geolocation functionalities essential for APRS operations.

TNT THE NEW HOT THING

Hot and new products to think about

W7UUU

So… when is it going to be available?

Kenwood plans to launch the TM-D750A in the summer of 2025.

While specific pricing details have not been disclosed, retailers such as HRO and DXE are offering reservation options (pay a small refundable deposit to stake your place in line). But just my own 2/100th of a buck, this will be a nearly $1000 rig. I could be totally wrong but that's my guess at this time.

The internet buzz signals enthusiasm about the TM-D750A's feature set, particularly its tri-band capability and integration of APRS and D-STAR functionalities. The one big question I could not find an answer to this early: "duplexing" - does it have that option? No one knows… just have to wait and see. [*Might be "out there" by publication time –ed*]

The Kenwood TM-D750A represents a significant advancement in mobile ham rigs, and puts Kenwood back in the news with a new radio—something that has been rumor fodder for a couple of years ("is Kenwood leaving ham radio??").

This rig seems to offer a lot— combining tri-band operation with advanced digital features such as APRS and D-STAR compatibility. It certainly looks cool, and has some fun YouTube "preview" videos and early reports from Hamcation.

Time will tell—but it's certainly the "New Hot Thing" right now in the ham word.

-Dave W7UUU

SO WE'VE ALL SEEN THE POSTS ON QRZ AND OTHER internet forums opining, "Is Kenwood the next ham radio company to fall? They no longer introduce new amateur radio gear like Icom and Yaesu—are they going away?"

No! Kenwood is a global *$1.7B powerhouse*, *far* beyond just ham radio. Officially part of JVC-Kenwood Corporation since the 2008 merger with JVC, the company has a *massive* footprint in consumer electronics, professional communications, and automotive systems. While hams know Kenwood for their HF and VHF/UHF transceivers, amateur radio is just a small slice of the business. The bulk of their revenue comes from car audio and infotainment systems, professional two-way radio solutions, and high-end audio gear. Kenwood rakes in just shy of $2 billion annually!

Automotive electronics, including head units and navigation systems, make up the largest chunk of their revenue–this market alone is worth *billions*. Public safety and commercial radio communications are another major focus, serving police, fire departments, and businesses worldwide. Meanwhile, their home and personal audio division, carrying the Kenwood legacy of high-fidelity sound, remains a very strong presence.

Ham radio? It's but a small niche for them. While they continue to develop and sell transceivers like the TS-590 and TH-D75, the amateur market is ***tiny*** compared to their broader operations. Most estimates put amateur radio at well under 3% of JVC-Kenwood's total revenue. They're a giant in electronics but never forget that ham radio is just one of the great many things they do. *-Dave W7UUU*

W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Photos & Text by Dave W7UUU

ONE OF THE MOST INTRIGUING ARTIFACTS in the W7OS museum at the RCT Clubhouse is this compellingly simple but beautiful brass box with a lovely 1920s vernier dial on the front. Exquisitely hand-fabricated sometime in the earliest days of radio, the cabinet is heavy brass sheet that was expertly bent and formed to create the enclosure and ground plane for the electronics inside.

But if you look closely, it seems to be missing something. Clues that would clearly explain what the device even is—are rather lacking at first glance. For instance, other than the tuning dial, there is but a single jack and toggle switch. On the rear of the box, nothing! No connections of any kind. For the longest time I would pass by this little box in the museum, and casually wonder what function it served. Was it a VFO? If so, where is the RF output? Was it a receiver? Again, if so, where is the antenna connector? Or was it something else entirely. Recently, I finally took a moment to sit down with it and carefully remove the molded brass top panel (not seen in these photos). Just a gentle pressure on the narrow sides allow the top cover to slide right off.

I was astonished when I first peered inside the cabinet, only to see but *four* actual components! There is a single SX-230 early direct-heated triode, a smallish (50pF or so) brass variable tuning capacitor (tuned by the vernier dial), a large fixed mica capacitor, and a coil. Of course, there's also the 1/4" jack and the power switch. But it only took a few moments studying the simple layout to realize this is in fact a very simple single tube receiver. Far simpler in design than any such receiver I'd ever seen before, that's for certain.

W70S DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Photos & Text by Dave W7UUU

Later that day I started researching early 20th century receivers, using the very specific search terms, "one tube receiver" and "single tube radio". It didn't take long to find a very intriguing hit: a schematic for a "One Tube Set" in the January, 1945 issue of the Hugo Gernsback magazine, Radio Craft. Wanting to have the experience of seeing the article in its original format, I searched auction site eBay and found a "usable" copy of that issue for a few bucks.

Needless to say that by 1945, radio technology had advanced way beyond such simplicity. The circuit I found, while not so claiming, is surely derived from the early part of the 20th century—perhaps no later than 1925, when simple triode sets were still in use.

The receiver is extremely simple and is essentially nothing more than a crystal set. The SX-230 triode, with the plate and grid tied together, with no plate voltage (no "B" battery) and but 1.5 volts of filament voltage, is just a diode—a tube equivalent of a piece of galena "crystal" used as a detector.

To operate the receiver, the lid must be removed. That's the only way to access the knurled connection screw at the top of the tuning coil and for the ground connection on the inside wall of the box. I speculate this was done to save cost—not having to install a feed -through insulator for the antenna connection. Or perhaps the builder just used parts that were available, and such a pass-through was a luxury not available. Of course, we'll never know the reason.

As a future project, I hope to power this little radio up with the sole 1.5 volt "A" filament battery, plug in a Tower 2000 Ohm headset from the appropriate era, and attach an antenna and ground, just to see if any signals can be heard. I suspect (but did not confirm using a grid-dip meter) that the coil covers the AM Broadcast band or perhaps the 80-meter ham band. Either way, performance would be exactly that expected from a basic crystal radio—very little selectivity, and very quiet signals.

The early regenerative receivers that came not long after would have been a *night-and-day* improvement over a receiver like this, and are the type of radio that caused the world of listeners to expand greatly in the first quarter of the twentieth century.

-Dave W7UUU

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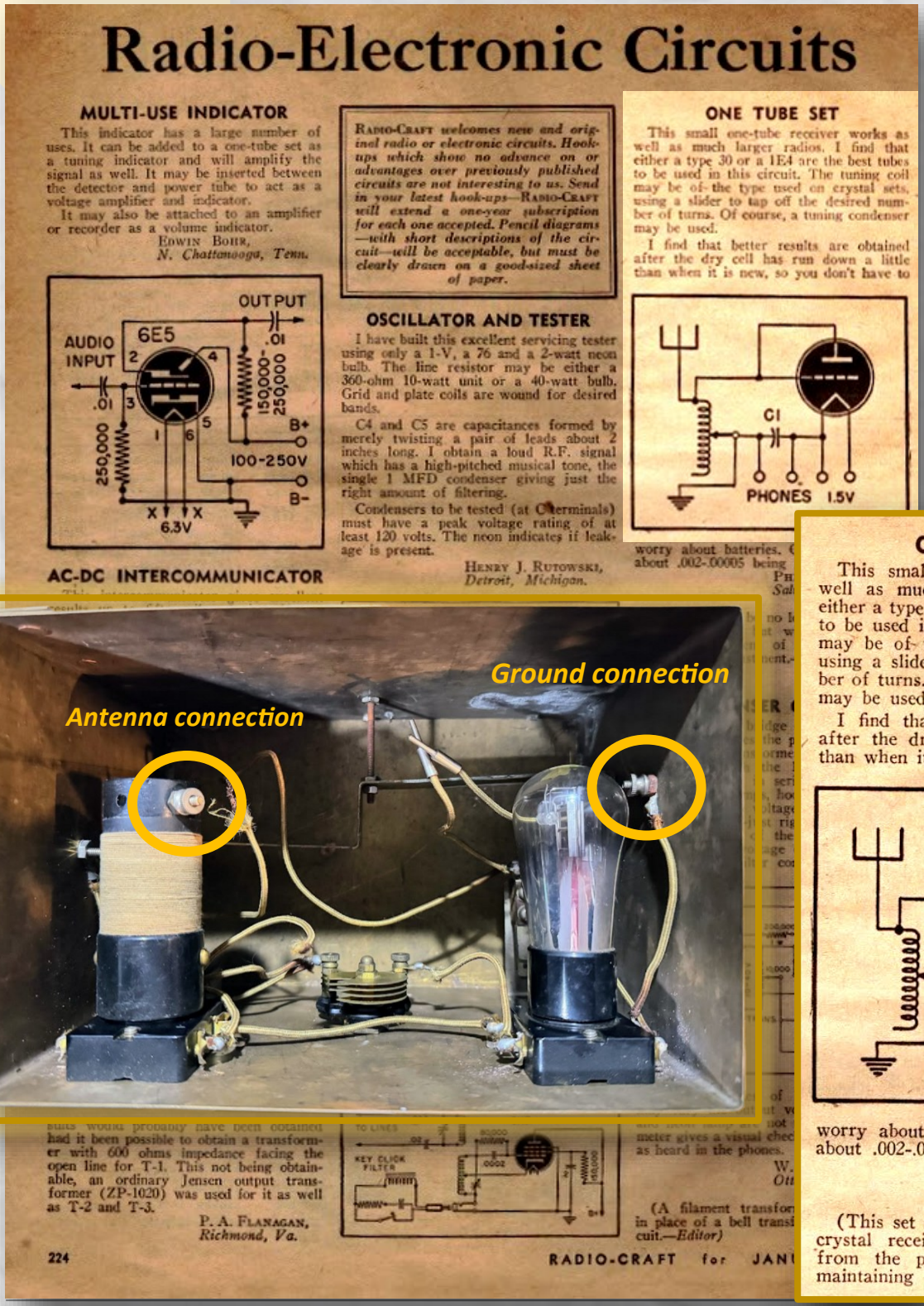
W7OS DOC SPIKE MUSEUM

Featured Gear from the Museum

Photos & Text by Dave W7UUU



Radio-Electronic Circuits

MULTI-USE INDICATOR

This indicator has a large number of uses. It can be added to a one-tube set as a tuning indicator and will amplify the signal as well. It may be inserted between the detector and power tube to act as a voltage amplifier and indicator.

It may also be attached to an amplifier or recorder as a volume indicator.

EDWIN BOHR,
N. Chattanooga, Tenn.

RADIO-CRAFT welcomes new and original radio or electronic circuits. Hook-ups which show no advance on or advantages over previously published circuits are not interesting to us. Send in your latest hook-ups—RADIO-CRAFT will extend a one-year subscription for each one accepted. Pencil diagrams—with short descriptions of the circuit—will be acceptable, but must be clearly drawn on a good-sized sheet of paper.

OSCILLATOR AND TESTER

I have built this excellent servicing tester using only a 1-V, a 76 and a 2-watt neon bulb. The line resistor may be either a 360-ohm 10-watt unit or a 40-watt bulb. Grid and plate coils are wound for desired bands.

C4 and C5 are capacitances formed by merely twisting a pair of leads about 2 inches long. I obtain a loud R.F. signal which has a high-pitched musical tone, the single 1 MFD condenser giving just the right amount of filtering.

Condensers to be tested (at C terminals) must have a peak voltage rating of at least 120 volts. The neon indicates if leakage is present.

HENRY J. RUTOWSKI,
Detroit, Michigan.

ONE TUBE SET

This small one-tube receiver works as well as much larger radios. I find that either a type 30 or a 1E4 are the best tubes to be used in this circuit. The tuning coil may be of the type used on crystal sets, using a slider to tap off the desired number of turns. Of course, a tuning condenser may be used.

I find that better results are obtained after the dry cell has run down a little than when it is new, so you don't have to worry about batteries. C1 is not critical, about .002-.00005 being good.

PHILIP DENNISON,
Salina, Kansas.

(This set will be no louder than a good crystal receiver, but will free the user from the problem of spot-hunting and maintaining adjustment.—*Editor*)

AC-DC INTERCOMMUNICATOR

had it been possible to obtain a transformer with 600 ohms impedance facing the open line for T-1. This not being obtainable, an ordinary Jensen output transformer (ZP-1020) was used for it as well as T-2 and T-3.

P. A. FLANAGAN,
Richmond, Va.

(A filament transfor... in place of a bell transi... cuit.—*Editor*)

Essentially the same design, the W7OS artifact follows the suggestion that instead of a sliding coil tap for tuning, a variable capacitor in parallel with the coil could be used instead. The antenna connection was simply the screw terminal at the top of the coil (yellow circle)

■ *-editor*

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ANTENNA TIME

Ham & GMRS Antenna on a Budget

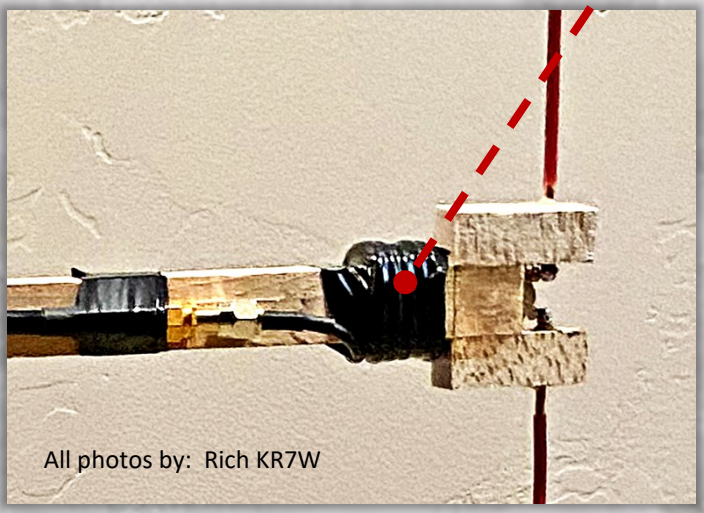
Rich KR7W

THIS MONTH'S ANTENNA TIME COLUMN IS A GUEST piece by regular Bark contributor Rich KR7W, who recently took some time to build up a unique antenna project and share it with the Logger's Bark readership. ■ *-editor*

I've been experimenting with building a simple DIY UHF 440 MHz ham and GMRS antenna.

This is Version 1—a basic vertical dipole. Since it will be installed high in the attic, it doesn't need to be weather-proof or especially rugged. The prototype uses a 7/8" pine square dowel as an inverted L-shaped mast and element support. The radiating elements are each 6 inches of #12 AWG solid copper home wiring, epoxy-glued to a U-shaped wooden element holder.

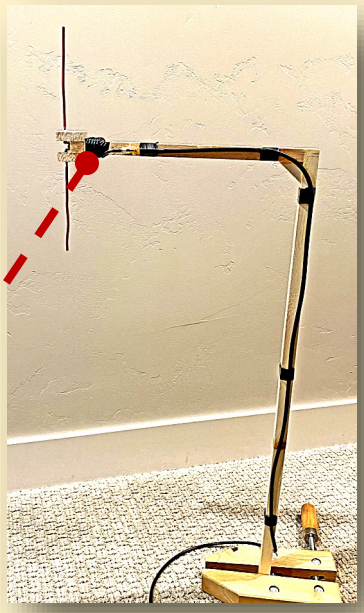
At the feed point, a 12-inch scrap of 1/8" RG-174 coax with an SMA connector is stripped and soldered to the #12 wire elements. This short length of RG-174 is coiled around the 7/8" mast to form a choke balun and secured with electrical tape. The SMA connector attaches to a 6-foot piece of RG-58 with SMA connectors, which in turn connects to approximately 50 feet of low-loss LMR-400 running toward the ham shack.



All photos by: Rich KR7W

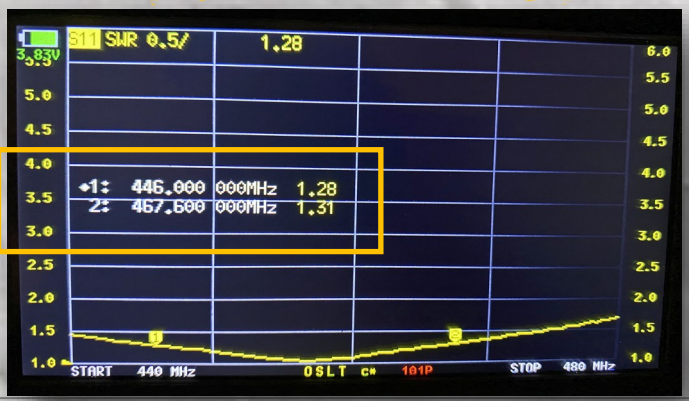
Close up of Feed Point, Choke Balun and RG-174 to RG-58 transition. Can't go wrong with Scotch 33 electrical tape.

The vertical section of the wooden mast is 4 feet high, with a 12-inch horizontal extension to keep the coax feed line perpendicular to the elements for 1/2 wavelength, preventing detuning:



In the attic, the 4-foot mast will be attached to a longer 1x2 to push the antenna up to the rafters' apex—about 12 feet above the ceiling joists. A basic Harbor Freight woodworking clamp will secure it to a lower rafter support truss. The heavier LMR-400 coax will be tightly taped to the vertical wooden mast for strain relief.

So now some NanoVNA Notes:



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ANTENNA TIME

Ham & GMRS Antenna on a Budget

Rich KR7W

At first, I was a reluctant "Novice-class" VNA experimenter. Now, I'd say I've upgraded to "General-class" and really appreciate this inexpensive but powerful tool. I've used it to test various antennas, measure coaxial cable loss and frequency roll-off, and even sweep the SSB and CW filters in my old Heathkit HW-101 and HW-32. I've also tested quartz crystals. For reference, the 6-foot RG-58 used in this UHF dipole measured just 0.09 dB loss at 450 MHz. Once I master the Smith Chart, I'll consider myself an "Extra-class" VNA user!

So do you want to Build One?

If you're interested in experimenting with an antenna like this, here's what you need:

- **Square dowel** – Available at Lowe's and Home Depot.
- **#12 AWG solid copper wire** – Also stocked at big-box stores, though the minimum purchase is typically 25 feet (good for a group build?).
- **Alternative materials** – Check the hidden stashes in the RCT Clubhouse garage, or pick up some brazing rod at Harbor Freight.
- **Coax** – The "Free Table" often has coax scraps, or shop carefully for coax jumpers on Amazon.
- **Adhesives**—Hot glue works just as well as epoxy for this project

Stay tuned for Version 2—a J-Pole for the same frequencies! Who knows? The J-Pole might earn a spot in the attic antenna farm instead of the dipole.

Thanks for reading! Keep reading *The Bark*—it's making ham radio great again. -Rich KR7W, WSGH824 (GMRS)

COOL ANTENNA FROM 1963

One of the classics—the Hygain Hy-Tower Junior introduced in 1963—now a thing of the past with the closing of MFJ last year—a 39 foot vertical for the 80-10-meter bands. Billed as using "stub-decoupling" to provide full-size radiators for 40 through 10, and cage-loading for 80 meters. Rated at full legal limit, and could withstand sustained winds up to 40 MHP, the antenna still required an extensive radial ground system. Some user reviews I read said it seemed to be optimal with 100 radials! Last listed price was $599.95 from MFJ—original price of $79.95 inflates to $809 today—so it was a bargain price until MFJ shut down! ■ *-editor*

Top Ten Receivers on the Sherwood List

Bob Sherwood of Sherwood Engineering, Inc. has long published a list of "Receiver Test Data" ranking receivers sorted by "Third-Order Dynamic Range Narrow Spaced or ARRL RMDR (Reciprocal Mixing Dynamic Range) characteristics". And no, I do not claim to fully understand the Sherwood List. All I know is that the day the new Elecraft K4D appeared way down the list (#14), and the Yaesu FTDX-101D/MP hit the #1 spot, a LOT of Elecraft fans suddenly said the list was meaningless, and they said most hams were too stupid to interpret the list, especially Yaesu FTDX owners. Oh well—judge it as you wish – here's the current Top Ten List from Sherwood ■ *-editor*

1	Yaesu FTDX-101D/MP
2	Yaesu FTdx10
3	Icom IC-R8600
4	Elecraft K3S
5	Elecraft K3
6	Icom IC-7851
7	Kenwood TS-890S
8	Hilberling PT-8000A
9	Elecraft KX3
10	Apache ANAN-G2

Upcoming Ham Fests in the Area

March 8. Mike & Key Swapmeet. Puyallup, WA. *This is an ARRL sanctioned event.* Flyer in PDF.

April 12. N7YRC Tailgate Party, Union Gap, WA. Yakima Valley Kerchunk Emergency Management, 2403 S. 18th St., Union Gap, WA. *This is an ARRL Sanctioned Event.* Map in PDF.

April (?) Kamiah Hamfest. American Legion Hall 618 Main St. Kamiah, ID. https://www.3riversarc.club

May 10. Stanwood Camano ARC 32nd Annual Electronic Flea Market and Hamfest. Stanwood, WA. https://scarcwa.org/ham_fest.shtm .

May (?) SWIARC Spring 2025 Spring HamFest, Peace Valley Charter School, 1845 S. Federal Way, Boise, ID 83701 http://www.dosomethingradio.com

May 30, 31 and June 1. SEA-PAC Hamfest and ARRL Northwestern Division Convention. Seaside Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. https://seapac.org/

Radio Club of Tacoma Ham Fair 1970

HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

Let's Talk About Transmitter power!

This column is reprinted monthly with permission of AF5NP from his blog www.NEWHAMS.info
References to FCC question numbers may be out of date but the content will still be accurate. Co-written with significant updates and content by Dave W7UUU

Question: How much RF power can a ham legally use on the air in the United States?

Answer: It varies with frequency, band, license class in the U.S. Maximum transmitter power levels are regulated by country; this article will only address the power rules for the U.S. It is one of the important regulatory subjects covered by the question pool for amateur radio license exams.

The average VHF/UHF handheld transceiver (HT) puts out 5 to 10w maximum. A typical VHF mobile rig is capable of 50 to 75w. Most modern HF transceivers peak at 100 watts, with some these days offering 200.

G1C04-2015: Which of the following limitations apply to transmitter power on every amateur band?
Only the minimum power necessary to carry out the desired communications should be used

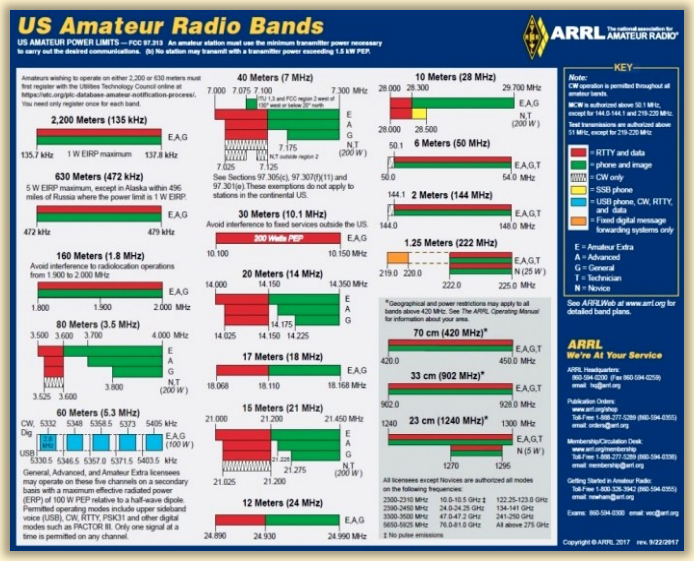
Before we get to maximum levels, in the USA the general guidance is to use *the least amount of power needed.*

Of course, that's easier said than done so many hams just go with the radio's max power setting unless they know that a lower power setting works well or are operating a with conditions (antenna, QTH, etc.) that support lower power levels.

In general, U.S. hams are limited to 1500W (1.5kW) peak envelope power (PEP). That doesn't mean you should, just that you legally *can*. This applies to General and Extra Class licensees for most bands and Technicians at VHF frequencies and higher.

T1B12-2018: Except for some specific restrictions, what is the maximum peak envelope power output for Technician class operators using frequencies above 30 MHz?
1500 watts

There are specific power limitations on 2200m, 630m, 60m, and 30m bands:



Right-click image > "Open in new tab" to see full size & print it out

As you can see from the ARRL band plan (based on current FCC regulations), Technician class licensees have 200W power limits on the HF bands, with HF privileges rather limited already.

It's important to notice (when looking at the full-size chart) that some bands have very significant power restrictions: 2,200 meters has a 1-watt EIRP maximum, for example! Another big restriction is 200 watts PEP on the 30-meter band.

T1B12-2018: Except for some specific restrictions, what is the maximum peak envelope power output for Technician class operators using frequencies above 30 MHz?
1500 watts

T1B11-2018: What is the maximum peak envelope power output for Technician class operators using their assigned portions of the HF bands?
200 watts

HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

Let's Talk About Transmitter power!

So why a would a ham want to use more power than their stock radios can transmit, and how would they increase their default power level?

To answer the why question, it is simply that more transmit power gives more signal energy at the receiving end. Increased wattage improves the chance of making contacts under poor conditions by overpowering signal attenuation and background noise.

To answer the how question, hams use RF amplifiers (linear power amps) to increase the power of their basic transmitter.

T7A10-2018: What device increases the low-power output from a handheld transceiver?
An RF power amplifier

This RF power amplifier must operate linearly so that it does not distort the waveform.

G7B14-2015: Which of the following describes a linear amplifier?
An amplifier in which the output preserves the input waveform

RF amps can be for single or multiple bands. More commonly you will find multi-band HF (or HF+6m) amplifiers which tend to be large boxes:

You will also find broadband or single-band VHF and UHF amplifiers, for FM, SSB, CW or Digital signal use:

In addition to all these commercially available amplifiers some hams build their own. This is partly a nod to tradition—hams being DIY types—and partly because commercial amps may not be readily available for very low or very high frequencies.

Ham-speak note: When a ham says that he or she is "running barefoot" it means native transmitter output power, unamplified beyond the stock radio capabilities—typically 100 watts or less.

Power amps are not just for handheld VHF/UHF FM transceivers; they can amplify most any amateur radio RF signal. They are mainly useful for voice (AM, SSB, FM) and video (SSTV, ATV), wide-bandwidth signals that need more energy to get through. In these days of solar minimum and poor propagation the few voice signals you hear on HF bands likely are running at least 500W.

Conversely, there is no reason (or excuse) to run more than 100W on HF digital modes; it would overwhelm nearby weak signals and ruin everybody else's fun. However, VHF power amps are practically *necessary* for exotic weak-signal modes such as EME (moon bounce) where there is dramatic signal attenuation going through the atmosphere twice and only a small portion of the signal reflecting off the moon.

HAM TECH 101

Useful tech info for newer hams and old

Let's Talk About Transmitter power!

Some downsides to high power

- Going beyond the 100-watt limit of a typical transceiver ups the ante for the rest of your system: it requires high power rating for antennas you use for various bands, and transmission line itself (you'll most likely need larger coaxial cable).
- Unless your antenna, feedline, and grounding system are very efficient, using higher power can easily increase your chances of causing interference to nearby electronics, home control systems, or those of nearby neighbors.
- Amplifiers can raise the safe RF exposure limits, especially from 6-meters and up into VHF and UHF.
- For maximum efficiency, kilowatt-rated amplifiers will likely require a 240-volt AC power circuit be run into your shack space, which can be expensive and require permits.
- Not the least concern, amplifiers tend to be big and heavy—and your shack desk system may be underrated.

So there are lots of things to consider before going QRO, or high power with an amplifier.

Ham-speak note: The opposite of full- or high-power (QRO) is low-power transmit, known in ham-speak as QRP. QRP is a popular and fascinating amateur radio operating mode and is typically defined as 5-watts for CW or digital modes, and 10-watts PEP for SSB voice. It is amazing but routine to make long-distance contacts with only a few watts of power. The current record for a QRP connection is 1 µW for 2640 kilometers (1650 miles). Successful QRP contacts require a low-loss antenna system and are more commonly accomplished using weak signal modes (digital and CW).

G2D10-2015: What is QRP operation?
Low power transmit operation

-Jim AF5NP with additional content by Dave W7UUU

Stunning E. F. Johnson Desk Kilowatt amplifier from the mid-1950s. Photo by W9CTO. Click photo to view at his website. The amplifier proper is the left cabinet, with controls on top, leaving the desk for the driving transmitter (Johnson Ranger, top left) called the "exciter" in the terminology of the era

The E.F. Johnson Desk Kilowatt amplifier, introduced in the mid-1950s, was a high-end powerhouse for hams of the day. Designed as a full legal-limit AM and CW amplifier, it featured a pair of Eimac 4-400A tubes in a grounded-grid configuration. Operating on 160-10 meters, it produced 1,000 watts of plate input power (600-700 watts output) meeting the FCC limits at that time. The unit was built into a desk, complete with a matching transmitter (exciter). Priced around $1,595 new—a significant investment—it became a dream station centerpiece. Despite its hefty size and cost, the Desk Kilowatt remains an iconic piece of vintage ham radio history.

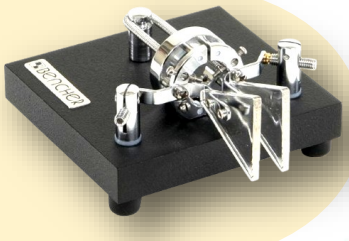
-Dave W7UUU

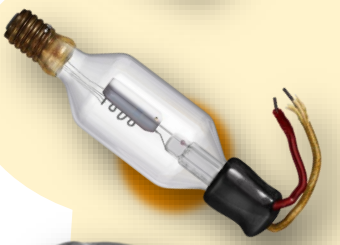
FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.

Radio Terms Word Search! Print this page to play!

Assorted Radio Terms and Names





Across

3. Guglielmo is better known as _____

6. The last name of the guy called WB6ACU

7. The "V" in VFO

9. Old transmitter power tubes had to be _____ to prevent oscillations

10. The fancy word for using a squeeze keyer

12. If it weren't for _____ Vail, Morse's code would be very diffferent

13. The company that got famous in Benton Harbor

15. The tube Mr. de Forest invented is called the _____

Down

1. The full first name of the guy who started Collins Radio

2. The device called "cans" in a repeater system

4. Radio Shack was a division of _____ corp

5. Mr. Halligan came up with a great name for his radios

8. The most expensive brand of modern ham gear

11. The first radio detector type

14. The Radio Club of _____

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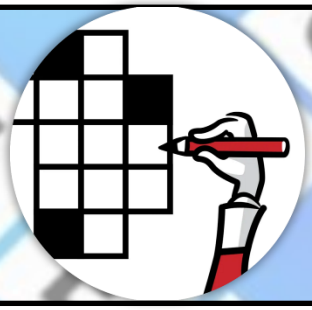
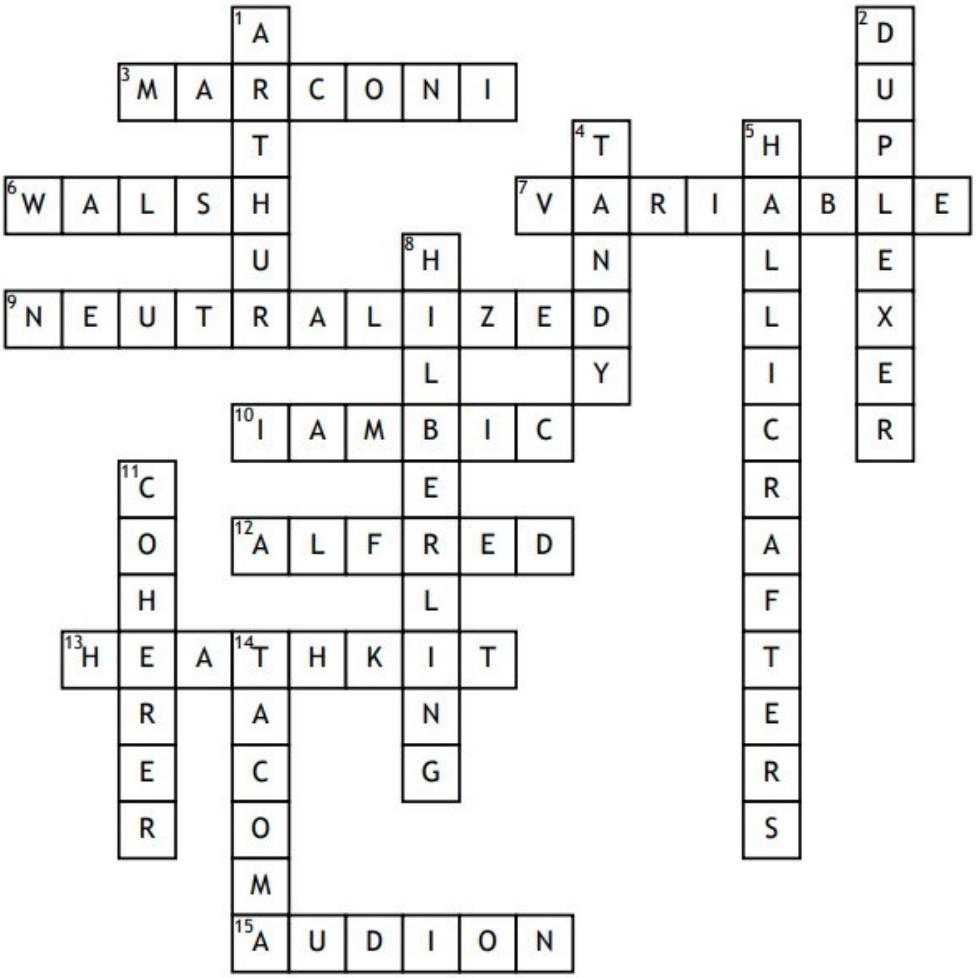
FUN AND GAMES!

Crosswords, Word Search, etc.



Here's the Answer Key—but don't cheat!!



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About this Publication

The Logger's Bark is the official publication of the Radio Club of Tacoma and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law. All proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98405, phone: 253-759-2040.

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We WELCOME contributions of articles, guest editorials, blurbs, Hints-and-Kinks, shack photos, QSL cards, memorable contacts, anything of interest to your fellow members. Submit your materials via email to: loggersbark@gmail.com or via US mail to PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411 Nichrome

Radio Club of Tacoma Repeaters

Central Tacoma 2m:	**147.28 + PL Tone 103.5**
Central Tacoma 70cm:	**440.625 + PL Tone 103.5**
Crawford Mountain:	**147.380 + PL Tone 103.5**
North Tacoma:	**145.21 - PL Tone 141.3**

The Loggers Bark ***does not*** accept AI / ChatGPT submissions

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- Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year.
- Fees are applicable for the calendar year: January to December
- Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.
- Visit www.w7dk.org For the latest and most current information on events and activities

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CLICK HERE!

Have a submission for our next issue?

loggersbark@W7DK.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Notes
January 8th, 2025

Meeting called to order at _____1900_____.

Officers and Directors Present

__X__	President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
__X__	V. President	Manny Adonis AD7MA
__X__	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
____	Treasurer	Doug Schafer AB7DG (Temp)
__X__	Board	Dan Vacanti KD7SV
__X__	Board	Dave Ashley W7GEL
____	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
__X__	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
__X__	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

President to approve appointments of Newly Elected / appointed officers and Committee chairs Before conducting any other business.

Adam consulted with committee chairs prior to this meeting and post meeting poll confirmed chairs desire to stay on. The list of Ad Hoc committees will be reviewed and trimmed; there are a lot of inactive committees there.

Shay Winget WI7NGS will continue as temp treasurer. Ad Hoc committees will continue as before.

Quorum? 5 of 9 Officers / Directors needed. ____Y___

Motion for approval of Minutes as previously distributed: Motion made by: Mike W7MKE Gary WG7X Seconded. Motion Passed

Silent Key or Illness?

Ollie Bond, AD7CC passed away December 23rd, 2024. Ollie was a very good man; long time member of the Radio Club of Tacoma and we all will miss him…
Ollie's memorial will be Thursday January 16, 11AM, at the "New Tacoma" cemetery, 9212 Chambers Creek Rd. W., University Place.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

In starting to set up my calendar for 2025 I noted that the Mike & Key ham fest this year will be on the second Saturday of March which is the same day that RCT general meeting is held. (Secretary WG7X wants to attend this event and will need a backup to take notes…)

Discussion ensued, decision Prez will check on available venue, possibly the Eagle 3-15 primary secondary would be the 9th.

Washington State Annual business report has been filed as has the annual Pierce County personal property report.

In other news, membership renewals are still trickling in. Even the usual bank statements, some bills, and magazines.

Committee 2025 budgets are attached to this agenda. The secretary asked BOD members to take home the printed material or read the message sent out to the BOD and chairs. Budgets will be discussed and voted on at the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report (Doug Schafer standing in for Steve AF7YD)

See attached balances report.

Discussion ensued about a new program called "Money Minder" that the new secretary might be using instead of Quick Books. There is still some discussion on this, but a decision has not yet been made. Shay Winget will get back to us on this soon. Money minder.com is the place to check on this program. Manny AD7MA has been in conversation with a lady who is the treasurer of the Jefferson County ARC who recommended this program to us. Her name is Robin, and she is a CPA, so we are seriously considering this program for RCT in the future.

Discussions will continue.

Committee Reports

Property Management (Red WB7EC)

This List is mostly from Steve, AF7YD's estate. Property Management team requests permission to dispose/ recycle the following excess items from this list

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Red made a motion to put these items on the list for disposal. Gary seconded the motion. Motion approved.

We did have a visitor from Neveda who bought $370 of stuff from RCT. December $XXXX so that was a very good month. $XXXX gross total for the year.

1. RCT 4391 ICOM HF XCVR IC-7600 SN: 0202901 (?)
2. RCT 4392 HP Network Analyzer 8711B SN: 534400589
3. RCT 4393 HP Network Analyzer 8754A SN: 1948A00482
4. RCT 4394 HP Spectrum Analyzer 8591E SN: 3412A434333
5. RCT 4395 Icom Antenna Tuner AH-4 SN: 210238
6. RCT 4396 Icom Antenna Tuner AH-4 SN: 1203878
7. RCT 4398 Icom Antenna Tuner AH-4 SN: 04364

Camp Quest NW CQNW (Sam N9MII & Becky KG7FZH)

January 17th through the 20th is the current schedule for the CQNW event. This event will be supervised by the CQNW facility members. Stephan Morton AD7AB Will be training the kids as happened during the last event. Six kids under 18 are registered for this event at present. There will be two counselors from CQNW present also.
Becy forwarded a copy of the CQNW insurance to the BOD. This will be attached to the minutes.

Discussion ensued on previous and future chaperones for the event. It will be fully covered by the CQNW crew as well as some RCT members.

Facilities Management (Adam W2NCC)

Not a lot has happened, but we will be doing the yard.

Facilities budget is attached to this report.

General Meeting (Dave W7UUU)

January will be the WWARA group presenting the upcoming change to narrow-band FM repeaters.

HF Operations(Phil K7PIA)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Phil reports that all the stations are operational Lou Room is still using the IC-7300 until the Flex radio is re-paired. Audio problems with the Icom 7610 have been diagnosed as a problem with the wiring of the Heil Mic that was not wired correctly from the factory. Bob AD7LJ will be repairing the microphone.

Phil discussed some of the upcoming contests; these are listed on the Contest calendar website.

Info Tech and Website (Randy WB4SPB)

All systems are nominal. Randy mentions that he is looking for headshots from the new officers.

Library (Doug AD7AV)

See attached addendum.

Mike asked about the progress of the digitizing of the old bound issues of the Loggers Bark in our archive. This is a work in progress, but there has been some forward movement. Randy mentions a website; way-back.com that has copies of the first digitized issues of the Bark. Randy will be sending us information on the site for us to look at.

Membership (Mike W7XH)

See attached addendum**.**

Dec 31st Mike looked at the membership and did a purge. All the lapsed members were removed. 382 members before the purge and now current membership is 333 members.

Museum (Dan KD7SV)

Dan reports that we did OK during the Straight Key night events. We had a good roster of operators; everyone had a chance to make a contact. The general membership also had fun with the CW bingo, awards were given out and pizza was consumed. Had a great time for all!

Dan also mentioned the K3Y event that is a yearly event that is on the K3Y/ SKCC website with calendars and operators. Skcc.groups.org for schedules. This is the 19th anniversary of the SKCC club, and their event is a month-long event. Dan indicates that the latest edition of the Loggers Bark has a schedule listed.

Dan also talked about the museum rotating boat anchors in there. Come in and take a look! Everything is operational and if there is a specific rig that you wish to use, just ask the museum members and they will accommodate you if possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Adam W2NCC, Gary WG7X, Dan KD7SV and Chuck AC7QN need to have a museum club meeting about W7OS events.

Planning Committee (Manny AD7MA)

Next meeting will be on the 26th of January. Looking at various subject areas, including marketing and public information.

POTA (BJ KO7T)

The POTA discussion continued; next POTA Will be? Run by Warren Angus NG7G on the 19th.
PARK: Nolte State Park
DATE: January 19th
TIMES: 10:00 AM PST

Repeater Ops (AL N7OMS)

No report.

Training (Stephan AD7AB)

Stephan has training scheduled for this weekend.

Tower (Nick K7MO)

Input Panel has been put into the attic**.** Budget shows the parts needed to be ordered.

Treasurer (Doug AB7DG: Assistant Treasurer filling in temporarily)

VE (John AC7WW)

Your VE Team on Tuesday December 10TH hosted 10 candidates at the clubhouse. 16 exams were graded 2 passed their Technician Exam. Two candidates advanced to General and another advanced to Extra. Four candidates failed to obtain an initial license and one failed to advance to Extra.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

Leonard, KA7NWF, Mike, W7XH, Brendan, WA7BMK, Rob, K7TGU, Stephen, AD7AB,

The next scheduled test session is January 14th, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

Wednesday Workshop (Randy WB4SPB)

Next three workshops which will ultimately result in construction of an antenna with a 9:1 balun and various bits. Randy is looking for help with the building process' with the students.

Parts for this effort have been sourced by Mike W7XH. Ten kits are complete and ready. January's event will be about antenna theory via Zoom, the subsequent events will be in person.

Unfinished Business:

None reported.

New Business:

Winter Field day: Winter field day this year January 25/ 26th Mike, W7MKE volunteered to run this.

SeaPac: The club has the chance to secure four tables at SeaPac, available for Saturday only. These tables will serve multiple purposes, including hosting a test station equipped with gear such as a power supply, power meter, and dummy load. Additionally, there will be a consignment table where items can be sold, with 25% of the proceeds for the club.
Current offer:
- Your club pays for two tables, SEA-PAC comps two tables.
- Your club offers free testing of flea market potential purchases to the extent practical.
- If you are welcome to offer items for sale.
- If you choose you can accept consignment items for sale and keep 25 percent of the sale price with the remainder going back to the previous owner. SEA-PAC does not take a cut.

Mike W7MKE Made a motion to buy two tables, Dave W7GEL seconded it. Discussion ensued on the details of the event. Motion passed.

Club conference: Get to know the radio club conference in April. Had a successful event last year. Adam suggests doing this annually. Much good data about local operators was developed. Adam suggests marketing our club to the Washington state U ham radio club, Microsoft and possibly De Vry. Adam is coordinating the Eagles, possible pro bono.

Memorial service for Rich Manson: Rich Manson's ex-wife, Arlene, reached out asking if the club would host a memorial service for Rich. She is asking for a memorial service at the clubhouse. Also, as part of the service she would like some of Rich's ashes spread on the property. Turns out that spreading ashes on the property

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

is OK with the state. Dave W7GEL made a motion to let this happen with up to $150 Seconded by Gary, February 2nd at 3:00 PM will be the date and time.

Developing a budget for 2025: The Radio Club of Tacoma has three primary sources of funding: Membership Dues, Property Management (PMT), and proceeds from the Salmon Run event. These income streams have historically provided the financial foundation for our club's operations and activities. For the 2025 budget, we can use the actual income data from 2024 as the baseline. This approach will provide a practical framework, reflecting the club's current financial trends. The club's historical financial data is currently not easily accessible. In the future, once access to historical data is available, analyzing income trends over a three-year period will provide a more accurate income projection.

(Financial Audit) for next month's BOD? Adam will be looking for a professional auditor.

Dave, AC7KP asked us to start publicizing the 2 two-meter nets.

Adjournment at: _____2100_____

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

Attachments: Attendance sheets, Treasurer balances report, Committee budget proposals.

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA
ATTENDANCE SHEET
Board of Directors Meeting / Agenda
January 8th, 2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board-approved minutes from the most recent meeting

W7DK

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	ATTENDED at Clubhouse	Only non-BOD members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.
1	David Stilwell	AC7KP	2073
2	Mike Isakson	W7XH	2567
3	Becky Friedman	KG7FZH	2788
4	Sam Mulvey	N9MII	2786
	Attended via ZOOM		
1	Red Cranefield	WB7EC	2561
2	George Salisbury	K7GRS	2586
3	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	2640
4	Jeff Winget	W8NGS	3110
5	Randy Meyers	WB4SPB	2050
6	Phil Pia	K7PIA	2681
7	BJ Rollison	KO7T	3001
8	Shay Winget	WI7NGS	3152

Radio Club of Tacoma
General Meeting Minutes
January 11th, 2025

Meeting called to order at _____1300_____.

Officers and Directors Present

__X__	President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
__X__	V. President	Manny Adonis AD7MA
__X__	Secretary	Gary McAdams WG7X
____	Treasurer	Doug Schafer AB7DG (Temp)
__X__	Board	Dan Vacanti KD7SV
____	Board	Dave Ashley W7GEL
____	Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
__X__	Board	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
__X__	Board	Paul Matney W7PFU

NOTE: These approved meeting minutes are reproduced here without any alterations other than to fit the available space, and to redact dollar amounts per Board rules. All language, punctuation, and spelling are exactly as submitted to the editor.

Quorum? (10% of membership is needed to conduct business.) ___N____

Flag salute led by: ___Leonard KA7NWF____

Visitors? Nelson Hauke K7CX, Scott Honaker N7SS, Karl Moore NA7KM, & Frank Hero KC1PIU.

New Members: Jiro Oi, KW6A, Karen Oi K4KOI.

Silent Key or Illness:

Ollie Bond, AD7CC passed away December 23rd, 2024. Ollie was a very good man; long time member of the Radio Club of Tacoma and we all will miss him…
Ollie's memorial will be Thursday January 16, 11AM, at the "New Tacoma" cemetery, 9212 Chambers Creek Rd. W., University Place.

Secretary's Report (Gary WG7X)

In starting to set up my calendar for 2025 I noted that the Mike & Key ham fest this year will be on the second Saturday of March which is the same day that RCT general meeting is held.

Discussion ensued, decision President Adam will check on available venues, possibly the Eagles on March 3-15, 2025.

Washington State Annual business report has been filed as has the annual Pierce County private property report.

In other news, membership renewals are still trickling in. Even the usual bank statements, some bills, and magazines.

Committee 2025 budgets have all been received, the secretary asked BOD members to take home the printed material or read the message sent out to the BOD and Committee chairs. Budgets will be discussed and voted on at the February BOD meeting.

General Meeting Program (Dave W7UUU)

January will be the WWARA group presenting the upcoming change to narrow-band FM repeaters.
Scott Honaker N7SS grave this Presentation.

Chair /Committee Reports

VE (John AC7WW)

Your VE Team on Tuesday December 10TH hosted 10 candidates at the clubhouse. 16 exams were graded 2 passed their Technician Exam. Two candidates advanced to General and another advanced to Extra. Four candidates failed to obtain an initial license and one failed to advance to Extra.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and service.

Leonard, KA7NWF, Mike, W7XH, Brendan, WA7BMK, Rob, K7TGU, Stephen, AD7AB,

The next scheduled test session is January 14th, 2025.

Treasurer: Shay Winget WI7NGS will be an assistant treasurer / eventual permanent treasurer, and Doug Shafer will also continue in the temporary position until Shay is ready to take over.

Tower committee: Entry panel in the clubhouse to coax the repeater. Is in place thanks to assistance from Dave W7GEL.

Winter field day: Mike W7MKE discussed winter field day coming up. January 25th & 26th 30-hour event. We

will operate from the clubhouse using club power. Actual power output will be decided at the time of the event.

Important Items / Activities coming up?

Pota winter day: 19th of January on the website. Also, Mineral winter fest January 25th is the Mineral winter fest.

Becky Friedman KG7FZH reminds us that CQNW will be using our clubhouse for their previously scheduled event. This upcoming weekend January 17th through the 20th.

Karl Moore NA7KM, from the American Legion Post in Puyallup offers help with veteran's questions about benefits after the meeting.

Memorial service for Rich Manson: Rich Manson's ex-wife, Arlene, reached out asking if the club would host a memorial service for Rich. She is asking for a memorial service at the clubhouse. Also, as part of the service she would like some of Rich's ashes spread on the property. Turns out that spreading ashes on the property is OK with the state. Dave W7GEL made a motion to let this happen with up to $150 Seconded by Gary, February 2nd at 3:00 PM will be the date and time.

Member Questions?

Nick Winter K7MO asked about operating RCT equipment remotely from home for the winter field day. Unfortunately, RCT equipment is not currently set up for that.

Activity reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements?

Door prize won by: Frank Hero, KC1PIU. It was a Heathkit wattmeter.

Adjournment at: _____1427_____

Secretary, Gary McAdams WG7X

Attachments: Attendance sheets.

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting

W7DK

RADIO CLUB of TACOMA
ATTENDANCE SHEET
General Meeting Agenda /
Minutes
January 11th, 2025

	NAME	CALLSIGN	RCT NUM
	ATTENDED at Eagles	Only non-BOD members BOD at top of minutes.	Applies to Eagles and at clubhouse.
1	Karl Moore	NA7KM	2325
2	Nelson Hauke	K7CX	Guest
3	Karen Hoi	K4KOI	Guest
4	Jiro Hoi	KW6A	Guest
5	David Stilwell	AC7KP	3028
6	Walt Morey	WA7SDY	2763
7	Chuck Kemmer	AC7QN	2088
8	Dave Ellison	W7UUU	743
9	Nick Winter	K7MO	640
10	Anna Winter	K7ANA	2228
11	Bob Heselberg	K7MXE	461
12	Scott Honaker	N7SS	Guest
13	Phil Shideler	KC7PS	2853
14	John Terril	N7TES	2733

GENERAL MEETING

Board-approved minutes from the December 2024 meeting

W7DK

15	Julie Cunningham	W7JUL	3158
16	Phil Pia	K7PIA	2681
17	Bob Purdom	AD7LJ	2240
18	Al Ferguson	N7OMS	2107
19	Mike Mikuchonis	W7XTZ	2470
20	Ross Van Deen	W7ROV	Guest
21	Frank Hero	KC1PIU	Guest
22	Diane Sim	W7SIM	2304
23	Randy Myers	WB4SPB	2050
24	Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	2640
25	Scott Smith	KF7ZFL	3450
26	Becky Friedman	KG7FZH	2788
27	Sam Mulvey	N9MII	2786
28	Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF	2308
	Attended via ZOOM		
1	Ryan Eaton	W7SFO	3173
2	Jeff Smythe	KB7QAG	1143